



# Australian University College of Divinity

Formerly the Sydney College of Divinity

## MASTER OF COUNSELLING

### AWARD SUMMARY

**Nomenclature:** MCouns

**CRICOS:** 114821D

### AQF Level 9 Masters (Coursework)

<b>Entry Requirements</b>	<p>A three-year AQF 7 Bachelor Degree in any discipline; OR A postgraduate qualification (AQF 8 or above) in Counselling; OR An undergraduate qualification (AQF 7) in Counselling; OR Qualify for professional entry on the basis of their 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.</p>
<b>Duration</b>	1.5 years full-time, or up to 6 years part-time
<b>Attendance Type:</b>	Full-time, part-time
<b>Delivery Mode:</b>	Online, face-to-face, or multi-modal
<b>Structure</b>	108 credit points (12 units), selected upon the basis of admission criteria
<b>English Proficiency</b>	Applicants whose entry qualifications were obtained in an institution where English is not the language of instruction normally require a minimum IELTS (or equivalent) overall score of 7.0 and no subtest below 6.5 in all bands of the test.
<b>Enrolment</b>	Students should contact the Registrar of the Member Institution for enrolment and fee details.

## **Graduate Profile and Rationale**

The Master of Counselling provides students with advanced professional skills for counselling ministry and for pastoral and spiritual formation. It nurtures the formation of professional identity and vision suitable for individual and relational counselling. The course equips graduates to engage in supportive and intensive therapies with psychological competence and theological congruence.

Graduates will have added extensive transferable knowledge and skills in counselling to enhance their professional work

## **Course Outcomes**

### **Knowledge**

Graduates will possess:

- advanced understanding of the theories, processes, and strategies of counselling;
- an integrated level of theoretical and experiential knowledge of supervisory leadership and management structures;
- an understanding of research principles and methods applicable to counselling studies and its practice.

### **Skills**

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

- demonstrate expert counselling skills and practices across a range of clients;
- analyse critically, reflect on and synthesise counselling knowledge to identify, reflect and act on complex client contexts;
- interpret and transmit counselling knowledge, skills and ideas through coherent and sustained counselling practice to specialist and non-specialist audiences.

### **Applications of Knowledge and Skills**

Graduates will possess the ability to:

- apply knowledge and skills to initiate and plan counselling interventions;
- apply critical self-evaluation and theological reflection to their practice of counselling;
- apply professional practice in counselling with a range of people in a wide variety of contexts including multi-disciplinary and multi-cultural environments.

## **ACADEMIC REGULATIONS for the Master of Counselling**

### **1 Admission to Candidature**

- 1.1 An applicant for admission to candidature for the Master of Counselling will:
  - 1.1.1 hold a three-year AQF 7 counselling award or equivalent, including the Australian University College of Divinity Bachelor of Counselling, OR
  - 1.1.2 hold a postgraduate qualification (AQF 8 or above) in Counselling, such as the Australian University College of Divinity Graduate Certificate in Counselling or Graduate Diploma of Counselling (which are nested pathways into the Master of Counselling); OR
  - 1.1.3 hold a three-year AQF 7 award in any discipline other than counselling; OR
  - 1.1.4 hold an AQF 8 Vocational Graduate Diploma in Counselling (or equivalent);OR
  - 1.1.5 qualify for professional entry as determined by the Student Support and Administration Committee, AND
  - 1.1.6 satisfactorily complete a pre-enrolment interview with a relevant courseadvisor.
- 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 advise to recommend.
- 1.3 In exceptional cases an applicant may be admitted as a candidate for a Master of Counselling if the applicant submits evidence of other academic and professional attainments to the Student Support and Administration Committee.
- 1.4 A Candidate for the award shall be designated as full-time or part-time. A student is designated as full-time if enrolled in 27 credit points or more in a teaching period or part-time if enrolled in less than 27 credit points per teaching period.
- 1.5 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.
- 1.6 Application for enrolment in the Master of Counselling program is made to the Registrar of the appropriate Member Institution offering the program.

### **2 Course Structure**

- 2.1 The Master of Counselling requires the completion of 108 credit points (12 units).
- 2.2 Where an applicant enters the award under provision 1.1.1 or 1.1.2, the twelve units shall include:
  - 2.2.1 Six compulsory units (54 credit points) unless provision 2.5 applies.
    - C8101 Human Development and Counselling
    - C8145 Pastoral Counselling: Grief, Loss, and Trauma
    - C9222 Solution Focused Brief Therapy (SFBT) and Positive Psychology(PP)
    - C9223 Cognitive Behavioural Therapy and Dialectical Behaviour Therapy
    - C9229 Ethical Professional Issues in Pastoral Counselling
    - C9242 Advanced Counselling Practicum
  - 2.2.2 Six units selected from the approved list of units in Schedule below.
  - 2.2.3 Where a student wishes to pursue further higher degree research, then it is recommended that 27 credit points of the units taken above include C8190 Research Methodology (9 credit points) and C9298 Research Essay (18 credit points).

2.3 Where an applicant enters the award under provisions 1.1.3 or 1.1.5, the twelve units shall include:

2.3.1 Compulsory completion of four units (36 credit points) at the start of the program of study unless provision 2.5 applies:

C8100 Introduction to Counselling Skills  
C8105 Counselling Theories and Practice  
C8106 Fundamentals of Psychology

And one unit from:

C8101 Human Development and Counselling; OR  
C8143 Addictions Counselling; OR  
C8154 Relationship Counselling

Full time students may take additional units in conjunction with this requirement.

2.3.2 Eight units (72 credit points) selected from the following units:

C8101 Human Development and Counselling  
C8143 Addictions Counselling  
C8145 Pastoral Counselling: Grief, Loss and Trauma  
C8154 Relationship 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  
C9229 Ethical and Professional Issues in Pastoral Counselling  
C9242 Advanced Counselling Practicum

2.4 Where an applicant enters the award under provision 1.1.4, an assessment of credit will be conducted. With the exception of specified units given as credit, applicants shall complete units under provision 2.3

2.5 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 1.5 years full time and up to 6 years part-time.

3.2 In certain circumstances the Student Support and Administration Committee may grant extensions to the period of candidature.

### **4 Leave of Absence**

4.1 The Student Support and Administration Committee may grant leave of absence from the Master 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 teaching period after which a candidate may apply for a further period of one teaching period 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 for assessment packages.

- 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 regulations of the University College.

## **6 Credit and Recognised Prior Learning**

- 6.1 A candidate may seek credit up to a maximum of 54 credit points in the Master of Counselling.
- 6.2 Candidates entering the Master of Counselling with a Vocational Graduate Diploma of Counselling (or equivalent) may seek a maximum of 54 credit points of credit.
- 6.3 Specified Credit may be granted for units deemed to be equivalent by the Director of Student Services. Application for Unspecified Credit may be considered for elective (non-compulsory) units only.
- 6.4 Credit for Recognised Prior Learning may be granted subject to a successful application, up to a maximum of 36 credit points.

## **7 Exit Points**

- 7.1 Students enrolled in the Master of Counselling may exit with the Graduate Certificate of Counselling or the Graduate Diploma of Counselling provided they have met the requirements of the relevant award.

## **8 Saving Clause**

- 8.1 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 forthwith to the Council of the University College.

## SCHEDULE

C8100 Introduction to Counselling Skills  
C8101 Human Development and Counselling  
C8102 Pastoral Counselling in Ministry  
C8103 Psychology and Leadership  
C8105 Counselling Theories and Practice  
C8106 Fundamentals of Psychology  
C8121 Group Processes  
C8136 Pastoral Counselling: Marriage and Family  
C8143 Addictions Counselling  
C8145 Pastoral Counselling: Grief, Loss and Trauma  
C8150 Child and Adolescent Counselling  
C8153 Human Sexuality in the Helping Professions  
C8154 Relationship Counselling  
C8156 Family Counselling  
C8166 Wellbeing and Resilience for People Helpers  
C8170 Fundamental Principles of Pastoral Supervision  
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  
C9229 Ethical and Professional Issues in Pastoral Counselling  
C9242 Advanced Counselling Practicum  
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  
P8175 Professional Supervision Practicum  
T8147 Suffering and Hope: Theological Reflections  
C8190 Research Methodology  
C9298 Research Essay (18 credit points)

C8192 Issues in...[Topic]  
C8185 Studies in...[Topic]  
C9290 Capstone in Counselling  
C9291 Issues in...[Topic]  
C9292 Seminar in...[Topic]  
C9293 Independent Guided Study (9cp)  
C9294 Independent Guided Study (18cp)  
C9296 Minor Research Project (9cp)  
C9297 Major Research Project (18cp)

<b>Version</b>	<b>Date and Governance</b>	<b>Changes</b>
1.0	7/12/2022 Academic Board	Approved
2.0	9/10/2023 Academic Board	Approved for CRICOS (CRICOS approval date 23/1/2024) Change to admission requirement 1.1.2 to include Graduate Diploma in Counselling; changes to course structure units
3.0	4/3/2024 Academic Board	English Language Admission Requirements update
4.0	30/6/2025 Academic Board	Universal Revisions: 1) Delete Prohibition of enrolling in two awards simultaneously 2) Extend Part-time duration of study to FOUR TIMES (4x) the full-time duration 3) Remove requirements for compulsory admission interviews 4) Replace 'semester' with 'teaching period' 5) Remove: 'whose stipulations are severe' in relation to Academic Integrity breaches
5.0	9/3/2025 Academic Board	Clause 2.1 separated into two clauses, requiring updated numbering in all subsequent clauses in section 2 Clause 2.2.1 updated to refer to provision 2.25 Clause 2.3.1 updated to make requirement clearer and to refer to provision 2.5 Clause 2.3.2 updated to make requirement clearer, in coordination with clause 2.3.1 Clause 2.4 rewritten to reflect credit processes i.e. assessment of credit, allowing specified units of credit and to refer back to provision 2.3 Clause 6.2 updated to indicate that students 'may seek' rather than 'will receive' credit Clause 6.3 updated to replace reference to decommissioned SSAC with Director of Student Services Clause 6.4 updated to included a maximum limit of 36 credit points Schedule of units updated to include individual study/ research project units and unit codes updated for Research Methodology and Research Essay units.