

**Master of Science in Counseling Evening Cohort
California State University Fullerton
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

Q. How is the M.S. in Counseling Evening Cohort program which is offered every three years beginning in the spring semester different from the traditional program that begins each fall semester?

A. There are 4 differences:

1. All students in the M.S. in Counseling Evening Cohort program progress through the curriculum at the same pace, two courses per semester. Students must take these classes spring, summer and fall semester for three years and one semester to complete the program. The traditional program offers more flexibility in scheduling courses; students can take two, three or four courses, depending on their life and work needs. The traditional program can be completed in three to five years.
2. All courses in the M.S. in Counseling Evening Cohort program meet at 7:00 p.m. Students in the traditional program must take 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. courses.
3. M.S. in Counseling Evening Cohort students are guaranteed that they will be able to enroll each semester in the courses they need to take. Students in the traditional program do not have the same guarantee and may have to adjust their scheduling plans and graduation date when they are not able to get into courses that have reached their maximum enrollment.
4. The M.S. in Counseling Evening Cohort program, because it is not state-supported, has somewhat higher tuition. Both programs have the same courses, taught by the same instructors. Students in both programs receive the same degree from California State University, Fullerton. Graduates of both programs will have met the educational requirements required by the California Board of Behavioral Science for LMFT's and LPCC's. Students in both programs have the same library privileges, and M.S. in Counseling Evening Cohort students are considered part of the CSUF community. They are welcome to use the library and other facilities and meet with faculty. Students in both programs will be advised by a full-time faculty member, who will help them with their study plans, and assist them with any other matter relevant to their graduate education with us.

Q. What times do classes meet?

A. In the fall and spring semesters, classes meet from 7:00 p.m. to 9:45 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays. In summer, which runs from the beginning of June through mid-August, classes tend to meet from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., plus two additional meetings to be arranged. Class times are designed to meet the unit requirements set by the California State Board of Behavioral Sciences, which oversees LMFT and LPCC programs.

Q. Can students go full-time at the M.S. in Counseling Evening Cohort program?

A. No. This program is a part-time program only. It is what is called a "cohort" program, meaning that all students go through the program together, taking the same two classes each semester. Our experience with this program and the traditional program has taught us that two classes per week are about the most a working student can successfully handle.

Q. Can I start the M.S. in Counseling Evening Cohort and transfer to the traditional program?

A. No. M.S. in Counseling Evening Cohort students can only take classes as part of this program.

Q. I've heard there is a fieldwork component to the program. Can you tell me more about this?

A. In the midpoint of the program, all students are required to work in a community mental health agency for one to one and a half years. This fieldwork experience is called a "practicum" and is similar to the internship all students take after they graduate. In practicum, students will provide counseling to a variety of populations, including children, adults, couples, and families. The Department of Counseling has selected community agencies ("practicum sites") that will fit with working students' schedules. Practicum is a one to one and a half -year commitment, and is equivalent to a part-time job, requiring 15-20 hours per week at the agency. There is no salary or stipend, but it is an essential component of every counselor's training. Students will also be taking two classes while participating in the practicum component; one of these classes will be a seminar in which students discuss their counseling experiences and show videotapes of their counseling sessions.

Q. How big are the classes?

A. Most classes range from 25-35 students. Classes which require counseling training skills have about 15 students, and the Practicum seminar will have 8-10 students. Class sizes are identical to those in the traditional program.

Q. If I applied to the traditional program and was denied, can I apply to the M.S. in Counseling Evening Cohort program?

A. Yes. Students who are denied can apply to the M.S. in Counseling Evening Cohort program, or, if they wish, apply to the traditional program the following year.

Q. Is there a new cohort every Spring?

A. No. Currently, our plans are to start a new M.S. in Counseling Evening Cohort every three years. We are planning to start a new cohort that will begin in Spring 2019. Applications will be accepted beginning August 1, 2018 and the deadline to apply is November 1, 2018.

Q. Where can I go for assistance with the application process?

A. Please contact our Prospective Student Advisor, Ginamarie Scherzi. She will be delighted to meet with you and answer any questions. You can email her at applycounseling@fullerton.edu or phone her at 657-278-3042.