

**CACREP Site Visit Review Team
Report Response**

The Department of Counseling would like to thank the self-study reviewers and the site team members for their time and commitment to evaluating our program and others. We understand the process is a huge undertaking and are grateful to everyone involved.

The Department has reviewed the feedback from CACREP and have responded below. A table of contents has been provided for your convenience. The only UNMET section is Section 1: The Learning Environment. However, suggestions have been addressed for each area.

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Section 1: The Learning Environment

Suggestions from CACREP: The team was made aware of the approval for the change in department name and degree title to reflect Clinical Mental Health Counseling. We also acknowledge the need for the department to retain MFT in the department name and degree title. The suggestion would be to develop a plan to more clearly state the department's commitment to clinical mental health counseling and emphasize the counselor identity across all media prior to this change.

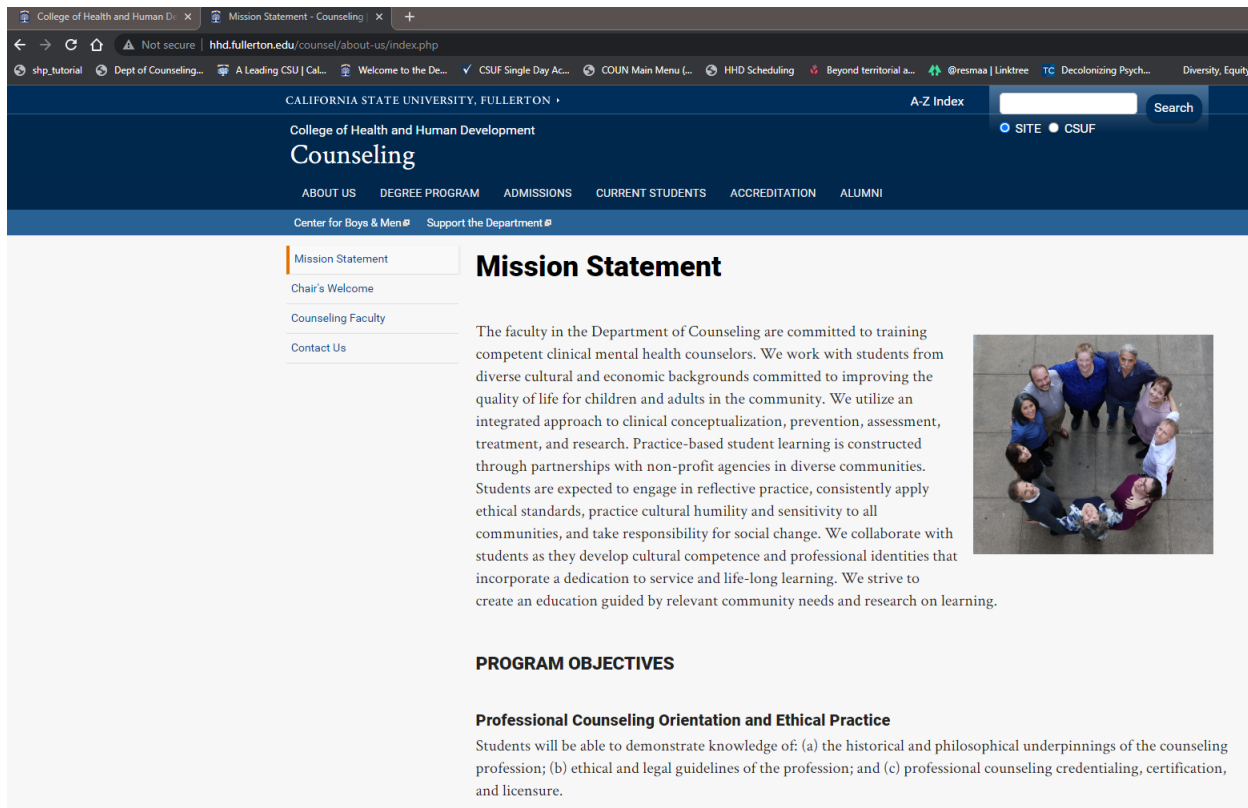
The Department has already begun to make changes to reflect our commitment to Clinical Mental Health Counseling, and to make clear that while we meet California state requirements for the LMFT, we are a clinical mental health counseling program. These changes are noted below in the next section on Specific Requirements from CACREP.

*Specific Requirements from CACREP: Standard 1.B - Institutional media (website, manuals etc...) should accurately describe the academic unit. Multiple Marriage and Family references can create a lack of clarity on whether the program presents a clear, primary counseling identity. The site team recognizes the need for the department to continue to reference the MFT profession (licensure path, codes of ethics, professional organizations etc...) due to California state regulations around professional practice. However, the site team recommends the department clearly define and align itself with a counselor identity. Suggestions for this would be to **reorganize information on the webpage that clearly places the focus of the department as a Clinical Mental Health Counseling program separately from the information related to the MFT path.** Compartmentalizing the counselor identity separate from the MFT identity could clearly identify the programs and degrees as counseling programs and counseling degrees.*

Changes have been made to the Departmental website, [Student Handbook](#), and [Clinical Training Handbook](#).

- Changes to the Student Handbook will not be on the website until we add our research labs in June. However, the rest of the Student Handbook has been updated and can be reviewed [here](#).
- Changes to the [Clinical Training Handbook](#) have been made and is now getting formatted for upload on to the website. We originally had 144 references to marriage and family therapy (MFT) and now have 12 references. We hope that the changes mostly on the first eight (8) pages of the document make it clearer that we are a CMHC program that happens to meet LMFT requirements in California.
- The [changes to the website](#) document reflect the changes that were submitted on various pages to be changed on the website. Below is evidence of these changes on our website:

Mission Statement has been modified to focus only on clinical mental health counseling with references to marriage and family removed.



College of Health and Human Development
Counseling


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Center for Boys & Men Support the Department

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Mission Statement

The faculty in the Department of Counseling are committed to training competent clinical mental health counselors. We work with students from diverse cultural and economic backgrounds committed to improving the quality of life for children and adults in the community. We utilize an integrated approach to clinical conceptualization, prevention, assessment, treatment, and research. Practice-based student learning is constructed through partnerships with non-profit agencies in diverse communities. Students are expected to engage in reflective practice, consistently apply ethical standards, practice cultural humility and sensitivity to all communities, and take responsibility for social change. We collaborate with students as they develop cultural competence and professional identities that incorporate a dedication to service and life-long learning. We strive to create an education guided by relevant community needs and research on learning.



PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Professional Counseling Orientation and Ethical Practice

Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of: (a) the historical and philosophical underpinnings of the counseling profession; (b) ethical and legal guidelines of the profession; and (c) professional counseling credentialing, certification, and licensure.

Under Degree Program: About the Program has been modified to reflect that we prepare students to seek the LPCC. We removed several references about the LMFT and left in the only important piece for students who are seeking the LMFT credential.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `/program/index.php`. The browser's address bar contains several tabs: "Welcome to the De...", "CSUF Single Day Ac...", "COUN Main Menu (...)", "HHD Scheduling", "Beyond territorial a...", "@resmaa | Linktree", and "TC Decolonizing Psych...". The website header features the "Counseling" logo and a navigation menu with links for "ABOUT US", "DEGREE PROGRAM", "ADMISSIONS", "CURRENT STUDENTS", "ACCREDITATION", and "ALUMNI". Below the navigation menu, there are two sub-links: "Center for Boys & Men" and "Support the Department".

The main content area is titled "Degree Program" and includes a sidebar with a table of contents:

Program Overview
Ánimo: Latinx Counseling Emphasis
LPCC & LMFT Licensure Info
Advisement
Curriculum
Classification and Advancement to Candidacy

The main heading is "Degree Program" followed by the sub-heading "ABOUT THE PROGRAM". The text describes the Department of Counseling's Master of Science in Counseling program, which is approved by the California State Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) to meet all educational requirements for state licensure as Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors (LPCCs) in California. The program is also nationally accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) in clinical mental health counseling.

[Please note: The same courses also qualify students to seek the Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) credential in California.]

Our emphasis is on training clinicians who can serve the needs of our diverse communities. We train students to provide evidence-based brief and long-term counseling while maintaining professional identities as clinical mental health counselors.

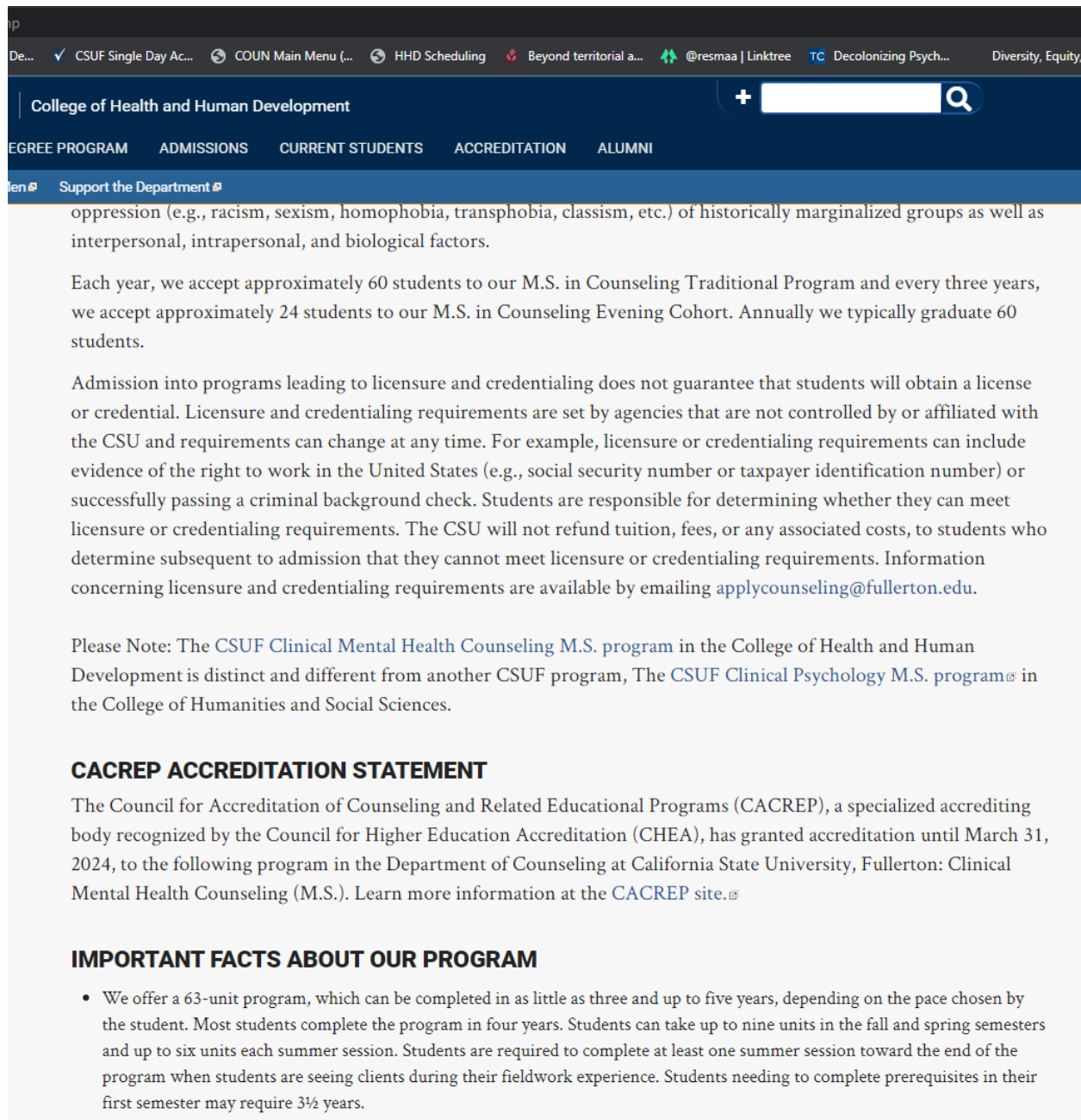
The program strongly emphasizes anti-racist practices to facilitate equity for all communities by maintaining cultural humility and engaging in social justice advocacy. We train students to be sensitive to clients from any social location and respect clients' values and identities, including, but not limited to all: races and ethnicities; sexual/romantic/affectual identities; gender and gender identities; religious or spiritual identities; and types of abilities/disabilities. Our faculty members and student body represent the broad spectrum of diversity.

Our theoretical orientation is grounded in humanistic, relational, and integrative principles. This means that we respect different counseling philosophies, are flexible in our approaches depending on client and student needs, and are united in our belief that relationships remain at the core of all helping encounters. We also believe that counselors can best help people by understanding the relationship of emotional distress and larger systemic issues that result in oppression (e.g., racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, classism, etc.) of historically marginalized groups as well as interpersonal, intrapersonal, and biological factors.

Each year, we accept approximately 60 students to our M.S. in Counseling Traditional Program and every three years, we accept approximately 24 students to our M.S. in Counseling Evening Cohort. Annually we typically graduate 60 students.

Admission into programs leading to licensure and credentialing does not guarantee that students will obtain a license or credential. Licensure and credentialing requirements are set by agencies that are not controlled by or affiliated with the CSU and requirements can change at any time. For example, licensure or credentialing requirements can include evidence of the right to work in the United States (e.g., social security number or taxpayer identification number) or successfully passing a criminal background check. Students are responsible for determining whether they can meet licensure or credentialing requirements. The CSU will not refund tuition, fees, or any associated costs, to students who determine subsequent to admission that they cannot meet licensure or credentialing requirements. Information concerning licensure and credentialing requirements are available by emailing applycounseling@fullerton.edu.

Under Degree Program: CACREP Accreditation statement has been updated to reflect the update in approval date due to delays.



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the following elements:

- Browser Tabs:** De..., CSUF Single Day Ac..., COUN Main Menu (...), HHD Scheduling, Beyond territorial a..., @resmaa | Linktree, TC Decolonizing Psych..., Diversity, Equity,
- Page Header:** College of Health and Human Development
- Navigation Menu:** DEGREE PROGRAM, ADMISSIONS, CURRENT STUDENTS, ACCREDITATION, ALUMNI
- Support Section:** Support the Department
- Main Text:**

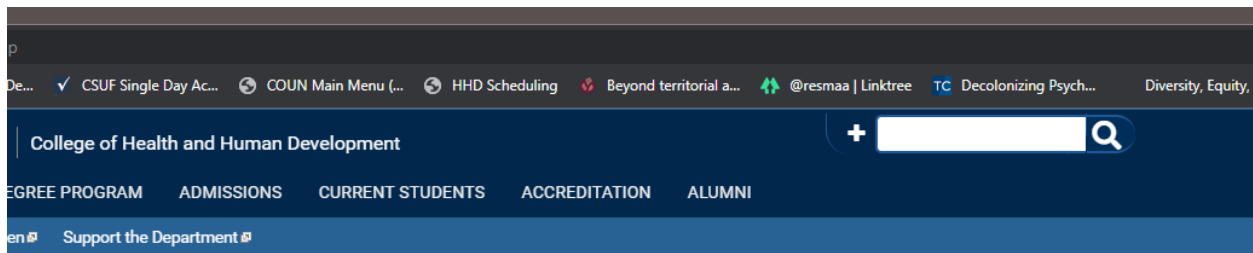
oppression (e.g., racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, classism, etc.) of historically marginalized groups as well as interpersonal, intrapersonal, and biological factors.

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Please Note: The [CSUF Clinical Mental Health Counseling M.S. program](#) in the College of Health and Human Development is distinct and different from another CSUF program, The [CSUF Clinical Psychology M.S. program](#) in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.
- Section Header:** **CACREP ACCREDITATION STATEMENT**
- Text:** The Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP), a specialized accrediting body recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), has granted accreditation until March 31, 2024, to the following program in the Department of Counseling at California State University, Fullerton: Clinical Mental Health Counseling (M.S.). Learn more information at the [CACREP site](#).
- Section Header:** **IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT OUR PROGRAM**
- List-Group:**
 - We offer a 63-unit program, which can be completed in as little as three and up to five years, depending on the pace chosen by the student. Most students complete the program in four years. Students can take up to nine units in the fall and spring semesters and up to six units each summer session. Students are required to complete at least one summer session toward the end of the program when students are seeing clients during their fieldwork experience. Students needing to complete prerequisites in their first semester may require 3½ years.

Under Degree Program: Important Facts about our Program has been modified, but this was not required by CACREP. However, we do make it clear that we prepare students to work in clinical mental health counseling environments.



IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT OUR PROGRAM

- We offer a 63-unit program, which can be completed in as little as three and up to five years, depending on the pace chosen by the student. Most students complete the program in four years. Students can take up to nine units in the fall and spring semesters and up to six units each summer session. Students are required to complete at least one summer session toward the end of the program when students are seeing clients during their fieldwork experience. Students needing to complete prerequisites in their first semester may require 3½ years.
- Fall and spring classes meet once a week, mostly at 4 pm and 7 pm, and are 2.75 hours in length. Some 1 pm classes are available for students who prefer this time period. Summer classes meet twice per week Mondays-Thursdays, with each class running 2.75 hours at 3:30 pm and 6:30 pm.
- Study Plans are personalized based upon each student's time availability to dedicate to completing homework and attending classes and their practica experience.
- Our program maintains strong links to community non-profit organizations throughout Southern California.
- Most of our students begin practice as clinical mental health counseling trainees in non-profit community agencies by their third or fourth semesters.
- Our graduates work in school, community colleges, universities, clinical mental health agencies (including government agencies), hospitals, businesses, and private practice.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (PROGRAM OBJECTIVES)

As part of an on-going evaluation of the program, the department has established five primary Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs). For each of these SLOs, assessment measures have been established to determine student

Ánimo: Latinx Counseling Emphasis has been modified, but not related to the identity of the program. Here we emphasize the LPCC, including LMFT as a parenthetical reference.

on.edu/counsel/program/animophp

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CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON

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College of Health and Human Development

Counseling

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- Advisement
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- Classification and Advancement to Candidacy

Ánimo: Latinx Counseling Emphasis

The Ánimo: Latinx Counseling Emphasis is a new component of the California State University, Fullerton M.S. Department of Counseling program designed to address the professional, curricular, and training needs of clinical mental health counselors working with Latinx and Spanish-speaking clients. The Ánimo: Latinx Counseling Emphasis is grounded in clinical mental health competencies and provides trainees course curriculum that meets the requirements to pursue licensure as clinical mental health counselors in California. [The program also meets licensure requirements to seek licensure for marriage and family therapist in California.] The Emphasis is grounded in national-approved competencies: the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related-Educational Program (CACREP) and the American Counseling Association (ACA). Furthermore, the Ánimo: Latinx Counseling Emphasis focuses on developing self-awareness as bilingual and bicultural counselors, knowledge of Latinx cultures, and *therapeutic* Spanish skills. The courses emphasize bilingual/bicultural counseling skills and are held in both English and Spanish (primarily in English) to meet trainees' needs.

In Fall 2022, the Ánimo: Latinx Counseling Emphasis earned national honors for supporting Latinx students. *Excelencia in Education*, a national non-profit organization focused on boosting Latinx student success, recently recognized the program as positively impacting and accelerating Latinx student success in higher education. Read more about the prestigious honor here.

In October 2022, the Ánimo: Latinx Counseling Emphasis received the Innovative Counselor Education Program Award from the Western Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (WACES).

NEED FOR CULTURALLY COMPETENT TRAINING FOR CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The mental health profession currently lacks or has limited guidelines on teaching and providing supervision to bilingual (in Spanish) and bicultural counselors to serve the Latinx community. This community has a high need for competent clinicians who demonstrate cultural responsiveness and cultural humility, engage in social justice advocacy,

NEED FOR CULTURALLY COMPETENT TRAINING FOR CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The mental health profession currently lacks or has limited guidelines on teaching and providing supervision to bilingual (in Spanish) and bicultural counselors to serve the Latinx community. This community has a high need for competent clinicians who demonstrate cultural responsiveness and cultural humility, engage in social justice advocacy, and provide *therapeutic*-Spanish speaking skills. The mental health profession also has limited guidelines on engaging in research with the Latinx community in a culturally responsive way. Given the growing demographics in the United States of the Latinx population at the local, state, and national levels, this much-needed Ánimo: Latinx Counseling Emphasis is one of a handful of programs nationwide to provide counselor preparation that is specifically designated to serve and meet the clinical mental health needs of the Latinx community.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW EMPHASIS

The Ánimo: Latinx Counseling Emphasis is embedded within the wider M.S. Department of Counseling. Of the total 63-units for the Master's degree, the Ánimo Emphasis consists of 5 core courses (COUN 511B, COUN 522B, COUN 527B, COUN 530B, and COUN 584B). These 5 courses have equivalent content and process than the non-Ánimo courses; however, the application of the material is focused on Latinx clients. Students must first be accepted into the Department of Counseling program before applying to the emphasis. There are also a pre-requisite and an exit-requirement of spoken-Spanish competency and the 5 courses are taught by bicultural and bilingual professors. The number of units required for graduation will remain the same as for non-emphasis students: 63-units. Courses will be taught primarily in English with plenty of opportunities to practice and build *therapeutic* spoken-Spanish skills.

Licensure Preparation has been modified to make clear we prepare students for both credentials, but we removed all other references to the LMFT.

counsel/program/licensure-prep.php

| Cal... Welcome to the De... CSUF Single Day Ac... COUN Main Menu (... HHD Scheduling Beyond territorial a... @resmaa | Linktree TC Decolonizing Psych... Diversity, Eq

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Program Overview

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Licensure Preparation

The Department of Counseling is a 63-unit clinical mental health counseling program designed to prepare students to meet licensure requirements in the state of California for the Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC) and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) credentials. Students should note that licensure requirements extend beyond the M.S. degree including registration as an Associate, 3,000 supervised hours in no less than two years, and passing official examinations. It is the student's responsibility to keep informed about licensure requirements, as they are subject to change annually. An authoritative source of information is on the BBS website and is called the *Board of Behavioral Sciences Statutes and Regulations Relating to the Practice of Professional Clinical Counselors; Marriage and Family Therapy; Educational Psychology; Clinical Social Work*.


For further information, write to:

Board of Behavioral Sciences
1625 N Market Blvd., Suite S-200,
Sacramento, California 95834

or call them at:

(916) 574-7830

Or visit the BBS website [.](#)

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The Curriculum has been modified, but is not related to the identity of the program. We added typical schedules:

Below are typical schedules and many of the courses may be taken in a slightly different order. Sections often fill quickly, and students may need to work with their advisor when they are unable to get into a particular class during registration. We have a limited number of spots where students can take an accelerated pace to complete the program in three years.

Students seeking a *full time schedule* looks something like this:

TRADITIONAL PROGRAM FULL TIME: 7-SEMESTER PROGRAM (9-UNITS/SEMESTER)

Fall	Spring	Summer	Fall	Spring	Summer	Fall	Spring	Summer	Fall
500	520	524	502	525	528	530A	521	538	597
511A	522A		535	526		562	584A	590	
518	523		560	527A					

ÁNIMO EMPHASIS FULL TIME: 7-SEMESTER PROGRAM (9 UNITS/SEMESTER)

Fall	Spring	Summer	Fall	Spring	Summer	Fall	Spring***	Summer	Fall
500	502	522B	524	525	528	530B	521	538	597
511B	520		527B	526		562	584B	590	
518	523		535	560					

Students seeking *part time* schedule looks something like this:

TRADITIONAL PART TIME: 8-SEMESTER PROGRAM (6-UNITS/SEMESTER)

Fall	Spring	Summer	Fall	Spring	Summer	Fall	Spring	Summer	Fall	Spring
500	518	527A	522A	523	526	530A	535	590	521	597
511A	520		528	524	560	562	584A	538	525	502

ÁNIMO EMPHASIS PART TIME: 8-SEMESTER PROGRAM (6 UNITS/SEMESTER)

Fall	Spring	Summer	Fall	Spring	Summer	Fall	Spring	Summer	Fall	Spring
500	518	522B	524	502	526	530B	562	590	521	525
511B	520	528	527B	523	560	538	584B		535	597

Prospective students may request particular syllabi upon request. Please email the Interim Department Chair, Olga Mejia at omejia@fullerton.edu.

Current Students: Useful Links has been modified to remove several references for the LMFT, and only the state-level information is included:

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College of Health and Human Development SITE CSUF

Counseling

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Counseling Student Handbook [📄](#)

Clinical Training Handbook [+](#)

Graduate Educational Stipend Program

Graduate Studies [@](#)

Scholarship

Final Project Abstract

Counseling Student Organizations [+](#)

Useful Links

Useful Links

Useful Links for National Counselor Associations

- [American Counseling Association \(ACA\)](#)
- [Association for Counseling and Supervision \(ACES\)](#)
- [Association for Play Therapy](#)
- [Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs \(CACREP\)](#)
- [National Board for Certified Counselors \(NBCC\)](#)

Useful Links for Licensure Process


- [Board of Behavioral Sciences \(BBS; CA State Licensure Board\)](#)
- [Associate FAQs](#)

California APCCs and LPCCs

- [California Association for Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors \(CALPCC\)](#)
- [California Board of Behavioral Sciences LPCC](#)

California AMFTs and LMFTs

- [California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists \(CAMFT\)](#)
- [California Board of Behavioral Sciences LMFT](#)



Section 2: Professional Counseling Identity

CACREP Suggestions: Current students mentioned that although they appreciate the flexibility of the format of their program, they would like to have more sustained contact with peers (in a cohort) throughout their program. The team encourages the program to explore this concern further with the students and find ways to foster connection among groups. It seems clear the department is providing a pathway for the pursuit of the LPCC licensure in CA. However, few alumni (in this particular meeting) were actually pursuing this licensure path. The team recognizes the “newness” of the LPCC in the state of CA and encourages the department to continue to look for ways to support this licensure as a pathway post-graduation.

The Department may be exploring a cohort model in the future. The commitment we will make is to strengthen our student organizations, which have been inconsistent in their ability to establish more sustained peer contact.

Section 3: Professional Practice

CACREP Suggestions: The team recommends the department maintain autonomy over fieldwork coordination to include event planning for site supervisors, evaluation of the quality of sites, management of internship databases and management of student and site issues. It was suggested by site supervisors and advisory board members that students have opportunities to engage and cultivate a wider range of theoretical approaches; in addition to Client Centered and Humanistic approaches, students also incorporate approaches such as CBT, Solution Focused to expand their ability to serve a wide range of presenting issues. Given the seemingly acute discrepancies between LPCC and MFT credentials in California, it is suggested that the Clinical Training Director and Fieldwork Coordinator continue educating site supervisors about professional identity through professional development and orientations, as well as students about counselor identity through the overall training. The team suggests the Clinical Training Handbook be revised to reflect the role of CMHC and counselor identity as the primary clinical focus. Separating this information from information related to MFT could clarify the program as a counseling program.

The Dean has been provided this report, and we have been told that the Department will maintain autonomy over fieldwork coordination.

The Department was surprised by the suggestion about incorporating a wide range of theoretical approaches. Students are currently taught and encouraged to use a variety of approaches including CBT, Solution Focused, Narrative Therapy, Feminist Therapy, Adlerian and others. We will explore this further.

The [Clinical Training Handbook](#) (CT Handbook) has been updated. The CT Handbook had 144 references to the LMFT when reviewed by CACREP. Currently, the CT Handbook has 12 references, and most of those are specific to licensure. Please see pages 4-8, where the bulk of the changes were made.

Section 4: Evaluation in the Program

CACREP Suggestions: The team recommends the continued support of course release for faculty who oversee the assessment process.

The Dean's office has been provided this report and we hope that he will continue to allow our assessment coordinator to receive release time.

Section 5.C. Clinical Mental Health Counseling

CACREP Suggestions: After meeting with students, alumni, and faculty it seems clear the department is focused on counseling and counselor training. In the light of this comment it is important the program continues to affirm the CMHC specialty and related identity.

The Department is deeply committed to maintaining our CMHC specialty/identity. During the site visit, we were told by the Dean and Provost that we have approval to hire two counselor educators to replace our two psychologists who are retiring from teaching this summer (2023). We believe this change will strengthen our identity, particularly because the majority of the core faculty in the program will have graduated from CACREP accredited doctoral programs once we our new faculty start in fall 2024.

Thank you in advance for your consideration!