

# GRADUATE COUNSELING

- Master of Arts in Counseling

## Program Structure

The Kalmanovitz School of Education at Saint Mary's College Graduate Counseling Program is designed for people who wish to work in K-12 schools, colleges, family services agencies, private practice or a variety of other counseling settings.

Candidates can choose a Master of Arts Degree in Counseling with one of the following specializations (more than one specialization may be completed by taking additional courses):



| Course of Study                        | Units                         |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Marriage & Family Therapy (MFT)        | 56 (35 core units + 21 units) |
| School Counseling (PPS-SC Credential)  | 55 (35 core units + 20 units) |
| College Student Services (CSS)         | 47 (35 core units + 12 units) |
| Career Counseling (CC)                 | 44 (35 core units + 9 units)  |
| *School Psychology (PPS-SP Credential) | 72 total units                |

\*This is a three-year, full-time program with its own core and specialization courses.

The Master of Arts Degree in Counseling with an emphasis in Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT) provides the educational requirements necessary to pursue an MFT internship upon graduation and, upon completing the required post-MA clinical experience, to apply for California's Board of Behavioral Science MFT licensing exams.

The Master of Arts Degree in Counseling with an emphasis in School Counseling or School Psychology will fulfill the requirements for the California PPS Credential with a specialization in School Counseling (K-12) or School Psychology (3 yrs -12th grade).

Candidates may enroll full- or part-time and can complete some specializations in two years (if they attend full-time). However, for the MFT or School Counseling emphasis, three years is advised. The School Psychology Specialization is a three-year plan of study. Classes are scheduled once a week during the Fall and Spring semesters, and up to three times a week during January and Summer terms. Classes generally meet after 4:00 pm on weekdays. A few courses are held on Saturdays.

EMPATHY

## How to Apply

Applications are accepted and students are admitted on a year-round basis. Prospective students are encouraged to begin the application process several months before the term in which they wish to begin. Once accepted, students may begin the program during any of the four terms: Fall semester, 5-week January term, Spring semester, or the 6-week Summer term.



**Note:** The GRE, or other standardized entrance exam, is not required for admission.

All of the following are required for an application to be complete:

- Entry interview with the Graduate Counseling Program Admissions Counselor or Program Director.
- Application form and fee. (Students may apply online at: [www.applyweb.com/apply/smcocsoe/](http://www.applyweb.com/apply/smcocsoe/)).
- A Personal Statement of Academic and Vocational Objectives, included with the application.
- Three letters of recommendation from professionals who can evaluate a prospective student's potential to be a graduate student and/or counselor.
- A baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution.
- Two official copies of transcripts from all colleges attended.
- While an undergraduate GPA of 3.0 is preferred, the candidate's academic record is considered in conjunction with counseling-related experience and personal qualities predictive of becoming an effective counselor.
- Unconditional acceptance requires completion of a 1 unit pre-requisite course, COUN 500: Introduction to Counseling Research, and passing the Writing Proficiency Exam, both of which should be done during the first year in the program (except for the School Psychology credential).
- PPS School Counseling and School Psychology students must take the California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST) for unconditional acceptance. Passing all sub-tests of the CBEST is required prior to beginning any field placement for either specialization.
- Evidence of health/accident insurance.
- Results of a tuberculin test (within the last four years) – required of every candidate.

*“My experience was rewarding and provided the best possible preparation for the licensing board exams. The programs are professionally constructed. The classes are tailored to working with real-life clients, not just theoretical people in dry vignettes. The faculty is first-rate; each professor is an expert on his or her subject and is very accessible outside of class hours to provide additional support and guidance. (The staff) were very good at helping direct us to the appropriate field placement for our varied career goals. The graduates of SMC are all exceptionally suited to work with a variety of clients and clients in crisis, and are all well-equipped to hit the ground running. The training is superior, both from a theoretical and practical perspective.”*

*- Tonya Lemmon, MFT, Graduate Counseling Program graduate*



## Kalmanovitz School of Education at Saint Mary's College of California

# INCLUSIVE, GLOBAL, TRANSFORMATIVE

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Here at the Kalmanovitz School of Education at Saint Mary's, we are guided by the Lasallian tradition: "Enter to Learn, Leave to Serve." Our faculty is committed to the core principles of social justice, quality education and inclusive community, emphasizing the skills of critical thinking, precise communication and creative problem-solving. We offer challenging opportunities for students to experience professional practice.

Our students are:

- Challenged by a curriculum that integrates research-based practices with opportunities for experience in professional settings
- Guided by an interdisciplinary faculty that excels in teaching, scholarship and service
- Supported by a staff attuned to the unique needs of active professionals
- Networked with a cohort of peers who bring diverse perspectives to the exploration of real-world problems
- Transformed by learning experiences that emphasize inquiry, reflection, ethical values and social justice

The Kalmanovitz School of Education is fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and offers well-respected credential programs approved by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) and the American Montessori Society. The Master of Arts Degree in Counseling with an emphasis in School Counseling (K-12) or School Psychology (3 yrs-12th grade) fulfills the requirements for the California Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) Credential. The College is a member of the California Council on the Education of Teachers and the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education.

### Financial Aid & Scholarships

The Financial Aid process begins by filing a free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at: [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) (Saint Mary's College Title IV code is: #001302). Prospective students should also complete a Saint Mary's Financial Aid application, available on Saint Mary's website. To ensure maximum consideration for all programs, students are asked to contact the Financial Aid Office at: 925.631.4370, or the Kalmanovitz School of Education at: 925.631.4149 with any questions.

Twice a year, in the fall and spring, all Kalmanovitz School of Education students have the opportunity to apply for scholarships distributed by the school. Students are encouraged to research and apply for other scholarships that may be available through outside organizations or entities.

A loan forgiveness program (APLE), providing financial assistance for future teachers is offered by the State of California. Information on this program is available from the California Student Aid Commission at: [www.csac.ca.gov](http://www.csac.ca.gov).