

## **School Counseling (PPS) Post-Master's Credential-Only Students**

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

#### **WHAT KIND OF A DEGREE DO I NEED TO QUALIFY FOR THE CREDENTIAL-ONLY PROGRAM?**

You must have a master's degree from a WASC accredited school in counseling, social work, clinical psychology or a closely related field.

#### **WHAT DO I NEED TO BRING TO MY INTERVIEW WITH MY ADMISSIONS COUNSELOR?**

If you have not already sent copies of the following to KSOE, please bring them with you: all of your graduate transcripts, course descriptions and/or course catalogs, syllabi (if you still have them), and a current resume. Should you chose to apply to the program additional items are needed, please see you application packet for details.

#### **HOW MANY CLASSES DO I NEED TO TAKE AT ST. MARY'S?**

You will need to complete at least 15 units in residence with Saint Mary's. You will meet with an admissions advisor to review your transcripts and experience to determine your exact course of study. Every student must take Counseling field experience and Seminar (COUN 530). COUN 530 is a two semester class. You may be eligible to challenges are considered on an individual basis.

#### **WHAT IS THE CURRENT TUITION RATE?**

Current tuition per semester unit is found on our web site under Admissions.

#### **CAN I GET FINANCIAL AID? DO YOU HAVE ANY SCHOLARSHIPS?**

Yes, credential-only students may qualify for financial aid and Saint Mary's does offer some needs-based scholarships. For both loans and scholarships you must fill out the FAFSA online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). You also must maintain 6 units per semester. For more information contact Carol Kenney, Program Assistant at (925) 631-4723 or by email at [ckenny@stmarys-ca.edu](mailto:ckenny@stmarys-ca.edu).

#### **CAN I GET AN INTERIM CREDENTIAL AS SOON AS I ENTROLL AT ST. MARY'S?**

No. The State of California does not issue interim or emergency credentials for school counselors. We can write a letter explaining that you are enrolled in our programs and outlining your expected completion date. Certain districts and principals have granted a temporary waiver to students in the process of completing their coursework and credential requirements.

## **DOES SAINT MARY’S HAVE A PAID INTERNSHIP PROGRAM IN PLACE WITH SCHOOLS?**

No. Saint Mary’s does not offer an “internship” program in school counseling. While some students are able to find paid employment in a school that meets the requirements for field placement, other students work at unpaid placements.

## **WHAT IS A CHALLENGE TO A CLASS?**

Students with significant relevant experience may be able to challenge relevant courses. If your advisor or course instructor determines that your experience qualifies you to challenge a course, you will need to pay a challenge fee of \$100. Challenge courses do not count towards residency. All challenges are considered on an individual basis.

## **WHAT IS AN INDEPENDENT STUDY?**

Sometimes previous coursework will meet some but not all of the requirements for a course. In that case your advisor or course instructor may require an independent study to cover the remaining material. You will need to pay the regular tuition per unit of independent study. Independent studies do count towards your 15 unit residency requirement. For example, if you took a 3-unit child development course as part of your master’s degree, you may be able to count 2 units towards the 3-unit Human Development (COUNT 248) requirement and complete a 1-unit independent study on adult development. The instructor will contact you with your exact assignment once you register for your independent study.

## **WHAT IF MY MASTER’S DEGREE IS FROM SAINT MARY’S?**

Students who graduated with a counseling degree from Saint Mary’s do not need 15 units in residency. You will still be required to take at least 1 semester of COUN 530 PPS Fieldwork and Seminar and present a minimum of 6 tapes of counseling sessions. You may request to challenge the second semester of COUN 530 part way through the semester. Each challenge is considered on an individual basis. Your remaining course of study will depend on your previous coursework and professional experience.

## **I DID NOT TAKE A STATISTICS NOR RESEARCH METHODS COURSE, DO I NEED THAT NOW?**

Yes. You may either take Introduction to Counseling Research (COUN 500) or test out of it. If you choose to test out, simply sign up at the front desk of the Kalmanovitz School of Education (KSOE). There is no fee to take the test. The receptionist at the KSOE front desk will give you an information packet with sample questions and exam location and date. At the time of the COUN 500 final exam, show up in the classroom and take the test. If you pass, you have completed the requirement. If you fail, you will need to pay the tuition and enroll in the course. If you do enroll in the course, it counts towards your 15 unit residency requirement. Testing out of the course, does not count towards residency. If you have written a master’s project or thesis you are exempt from this requirement.

## **WHAT IF I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS OR WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH AN ADMISSIONS COUNSELOR?**

If you have more questions please email Joel Gagnon, PPS Post-Master’s Credential-Only Advisor at [jmg6@stmarys-ca.edu](mailto:jmg6@stmarys-ca.edu). If you are ready to make an appointment, call the KSOE receptionist at 925-631-4700.