GRADUATE COUNSELING

- Master of Arts in Counseling

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):

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The Master of Arts Degree in Counseling with an emphasis in Marriage and Family Therapy / Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (MFT /LPCC) provides the educational requirements necessary to pursue an MFT and/or LPCC internship upon graduation and, upon completing the required post-MA clinical experience, to apply for California's Board of Behavioral Science MFT and/or LPCC licensing exams. The MFT track meets the requirements of Business and Professions Code section 4980.36 and the LPCC track satisfies those of section 4999.33.

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/LPCC or School Counseling emphasis, three years is advised. The School Psychology specialization is a three year, full-time plan of study. Classes are scheduled once a week during the fall and spring semesters, and up to three times a week during the January and summer terms. Classes generally meet after 4 p.m. on weekdays. A few courses are held on Saturdays.
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:

- Application and fee. Apply online at stmarys-ca.edu/soe-apply.
- A Personal Statement of Academic and Vocational Objectives, included with the application.
- Three letters of recommendation from professionals who can evaluate the applicant’s potential to be a graduate student and/or counselor.
- A baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution.
- One official transcript from all colleges attended.
- Admissions interview with the Graduate Counseling Program (GCP) Admissions Counselor, Program Director, or other full-time GCP faculty. Please call (925) 631-4700 to schedule, once the majority of your application materials have been assembled.
- While an undergraduate GPA of 2.8 is preferred, the candidate’s academic record is considered in conjunction with counseling-related experience and personal qualities predictive of becoming an effective counselor.
- Evidence of health insurance (or a signed waiver) and results of a tuberculin test (within the last four years).
- PPS School Counseling and School Psychology applicants only:
  - California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST): Proof of registration for a CBEST testing date. Passing is not required for admission; however, passing all sub-tests of the CBEST is required prior to beginning any practicum or field placement for either specialization.
  - CTC Fingerprint Clearance: Proof of payment for the CTC document. Fingerprint/Moral Fitness Clearance by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) is required prior to beginning any practicum or field placement for either specialization. For more information, go to www.ctc.ca.gov or call 925-631-4700.
- Read and sign the Graduate Counseling Program’s 15 Personal and Professional Competencies for Student Counselors, a formative assessment used throughout the program (This will be presented during the admissions interview.)