

**Prospective Student  
Web-based Information Session**



**Thank you for your interest in the  
California State University, Dominguez Hills  
School and College Counseling Program!**

**We hope the following information  
will be helpful in learning about and  
applying to our program.**



**This slideshow will discuss our Counseling program and help you through the application process.**

**We recommend that you also go to our website where you can download the following documents to review during this session:**

- **Counseling Program Information flatsheet**
- **Counseling Program FAQs**
- **Cal State Apply Instruction Guide for the Counseling Program**

**Program website: <http://www.csudh.edu/coe/programs/grad-ed/school-counseling>**



**The field of mental health offers many different kinds of counseling work and professions.**

**Before you choose a graduate program, it is important to consider what specifically interests you as a potential counselor and explore the various careers in the field.**

Some examples of counseling professionals:

- Educational counselors (School and College Counselors)
- Clinical counselors and therapists (MFT, LCSW, Clinical Psychologists)
- Behavioral counselors (e.g., ABA therapists)
- Rehabilitation counselors
- Substance abuse counselors
- Vocational counselors
- Counselors in human service and social work agencies

**The following resources can help inform  
your choice of counselor preparation:**

**California Association of School Counselors**

[www.schoolcounselor-ca.org](http://www.schoolcounselor-ca.org)

**American Counseling Association**

[www.counseling.org](http://www.counseling.org)

**American School Counselor Association**

[www.schoolcounselor.org](http://www.schoolcounselor.org)

**American College Counseling Association**

[www.collegecounseling.org](http://www.collegecounseling.org)

**California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists**

[www.camft.org](http://www.camft.org)

**American Psychological Association**

[www.apa.org](http://www.apa.org)

# We prepare students to become School and College Counselors.

## What do School and College Counselors do?

School and College Counselors have as a primary goal to assist students in their graduation and educational attainment. To help students reach these goals, educational counselors also must be competent in social-emotional, crisis, career, and multicultural counseling.

While School and College Counselors are trained to assist with a variety of mental health needs within educational settings, they do not provide therapy or diagnoses.

### **More specifically,**

School Counselors work with students in grades preK-12 and focus on the domains of Social/Emotional Counseling, Academic Counseling, and Career Counseling. The grade level and needs of the school will determine how much each of these areas are emphasized in a school counselor's day.

College Counselors focus on similar areas with work specialized according to department and student population at community colleges and universities (e.g., General Counseling, Transfer Center, EOPS, CalWorks, Athletes, Disabled Student Services, major Advising, etc.). Depending on the dept., counselors are sometimes referred to as "advisors" (typically at the university level). It is important to distinguish between the type of work you are interested in; student affairs and some types of higher ed. administrative positions often stem from a college counseling degree but involve less direct counseling services than the above positions.



## What qualifications are needed to become a School or College Counselor?

**School Counselors** must have a Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) credential in School Counseling for School Counselor employment in California. The PPS credential is issued by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC) following the successful completion of a program of study by a CCTC accredited school counseling program. Most school districts also require a Master's degree in a relevant field (e.g., Counseling, Education, etc.) along with the PPS credential. The Child Welfare and Attendance (CWA) authorization is an optional specialization added to the PPS credential that authorizes work with attendance improvement and retention.

**College Counselors** must have a Master's degree in Counseling and relevant college counseling internship experiences gained during graduate study. The field of College Counseling is extremely competitive, so one's internships and networking experiences are critical for future employment.



**Our program offers the following academic objectives:**

**Master of Science in Counseling, *School Counseling option***

**Master of Science in Counseling, *College Counseling option***

**Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) credential in School Counseling**

**Child Welfare and Attendance (CWA) Authorization**

**Certificate in College Counseling**





**A distinguishing feature of our program is the opportunity to dual-specialize in both School and College Counseling.**

For each MS degree option, dual-specializing is achieved as follows:

Students pursuing the MS Counseling, College Counseling option may also earn the PPS credential and CWA authorization.

Students pursuing the MS Counseling, School Counseling option may also earn the College Counseling Certificate in addition to the PPS and optional CWA authorization.

The majority of program courses apply to both degree options so that dual-specialization may be earned in a timely manner.

Students may choose to complete specializations consecutively or concurrently.

# What distinguishes the CSUDH School and College Counseling program from others?

## Characteristics of our program:

- A strong emphasis on clinical skills and self-reflection.
- The commitment to urban education and underserved students in the Los Angeles region.
- Faculty commitment to students' professional growth and development.
- The expectation that best counseling practices will be demonstrated by faculty and students in and out of the classroom.
- Guiding principles of professionalism, respect, and academic rigor.
- The ability to dual-specialize in both School and College Counseling in one program.

## Is our program the right one for you?

### Expectations to consider:

- Students must be willing to engage in a high degree of reflection, intrapersonal work, and experiential learning. Some other graduate programs emphasize theory and foundation more than reflection and application, so be sure to know what type of program is the best fit for you.
- Our program is very rigorous in both academic *and* behavioral standards for students.
- Degree completion time is 2-3 years depending on students' objectives.  
We are not a “fast-paced” program and taking an overload of units is not permitted.
- The majority of our classes are traditional face-to-face format.
- Students must be able to attend some 4:00 p.m. courses and eventually complete daytime internships as required by their objective.
- A typical schedule for students is to attend 2 - 3 nights a week:  
Classes are scheduled on Mondays - Thursdays from 4:00 - 6:45pm and 7:00 - 9:45pm.  
Some Saturday classes may be required.  
Students may choose to attend part-time or full-time.

# Typical Length of Study for the Master's Degree in Counseling

Our program is designed with an informal cohort structure, which allows students to progress along a structured educational plan while also completing the program at their own pace.

## Course load

Students may attend half-time (6 units) or full-time (9 or 12 units a semester).

- In our program, each graduate course is 3 units, so two courses = six units, three courses = nine units, and four courses = twelve units.
- Twelve units (4 courses) is the maximum unit load per semester.

## **MS Counseling degree (for both options) = 48 units**

- Taking 12 units a semester would complete the MS degree in 2 years.
- Taking 6-9 units a semester would complete the MS degree in 3-4 years.
- Adding the PPS credential, CWA Authorization, or College Counseling Certificate to the MS degree will extend the length of study according to one's objectives.

## **Additional Certifications Beyond the MS degree**

In addition to the MS degree, students can also earn the following certifications:

### **PPS credential**

The PPS credential is open to any counseling student who has met the CA basic skills req. (e.g., cbest).

Length of study:

- If the PPS is added to the MS School Counseling option, one additional Fieldwork course (PPS 575) is needed to complete the PPS credential. Students typically finish Fieldwork 1-2 semesters after the completing the MS School degree.
- If the PPS is added to the MS College Counseling option, four additional specialization courses are needed (PPS 512, PPS 545, PPS 554, and PPS 575) to complete the PPS credential. Students typically finish the PPS credential requirements 2 semesters after completing the MS College degree.

### **CWA authorization**

The CWA is open to PPS credential students only.

- Requires nine units of CWA courses (PPS 557, 558, and 555) taken in one semester, typically following the PPS credential completion.

### **College Counseling Certificate**

The College Counseling Certificate is open to MS School Counseling option students only.

- Requires nine units of College specialization courses: PPS 536, 537, 538. These are taken across two semesters of study, which can be concurrent with MS School degree and PPS completion.

## Fieldwork Requirements

### **M.S. Counseling, College Counseling degree and College Certificate:**

- Practicum (PPS 537) = 100 hours in a college or university setting
- Fieldwork (PPS 538) = 200 hours in a college or university setting

### **M.S. Counseling, School Counseling degree:**

- Practicum (PPS 554) = 100 hours in a school setting (pK-12)

### **PPS Credential:**

- Practicum (PPS 554) = 100 hours in a school setting (pK-12)
- Fieldwork (PPS 575) = 600 hours as follows:
  - 200 hours at a high school,
  - 200 hours pK-8, and
  - 200 additional hours any level pK-12 or college setting

### **Child Welfare and Attendance Specialization:**

- CWA Fieldwork (PPS 555) = 150 hours in a school setting focusing on attendance and truancy prevention and intervention.

# Applying to the Program





## Eligibility

**There are no course prerequisites or specific undergraduate degrees required for our program, but you need to know why you want to be a counselor!**

### Eligibility requirements:

- A 3.0 or higher cumulative GPA from your undergraduate degree (and in any graduate work, if applicable). Please see FAQs for information if you do not meet the minimum GPA criterion.
- Bachelor's degree must be completed no later than the Spring term prior to entry.
- The CA basic skills requirement must be passed if you also wish to pursue the PPS credential.
- A willingness to explore and share of yourself interpersonally.

Please refer to the Counseling Program flatsheet and FAQs for further information:

[www.csudh.edu/coe/programs/grad-ed/school-counseling](http://www.csudh.edu/coe/programs/grad-ed/school-counseling)



## **Applicant selection**

### **Increasing your chances of a thorough review ~**

**Due to the large number of applications we receive, the selection is very competitive with an acceptance rate averaging between 10- 15% each semester.**

**To increase your chances of acceptance to a counseling program, apply to multiple schools. Don't limit yourself to just one or two programs.**

**Incomplete applications are not reviewed, so be sure to submit complete university and program applications by the deadline.**

**Take care to answer the statement prompts thoroughly (see Program flatsheet for prompts).**

**Ensure your referrers submit their letters of recommendation by the deadline.**

Please refer to the Counseling Program flatsheet for the  
specific application requirements:  
[www.csudh.edu/coe/programs/grad-ed/school-counseling](http://www.csudh.edu/coe/programs/grad-ed/school-counseling)

## Which specialization should I apply for, School or College? Which objectives should I choose?

- Choose the MS option, School or College, according to which setting you best see yourself working in. You can eventually change options if needed or if you later decide to dual-specialize.
- Students must work towards the MS degree unless they already possess an M.A./Ph.D. in Education, Counseling, Psychology, or Social Work.
  - If you have a graduate degree in one of these areas, seek advisement about whether to earn a 2nd MS degree while pursuing the PPS credential.
- Choose the PPS credential in addition to the MS degree of either option if you want to have the option of working as a School Counselor.
  - The CA basic skills requirement is needed for admission to the PPS portion of the program. If you haven't met this requirement, you can add the PPS to your objective once you complete it. For more info, go to <https://www.ctc.ca.gov/docs/default-source/leaflets/cl667.pdf>
- Choose the CWA in addition to the PPS if you have passed the CBEST and are interested in possibly working in the area of truancy prevention and remediation.
- Choose the College Counseling Certificate if you have selected the MS School Counseling option and are also interested in gaining college counseling expertise.

# Application Procedures

We admit students for the Fall term only. The program application opens online on December 1<sup>st</sup> and the application deadline for admissions is Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>.

You will not be able to submit a program application until the opening date of Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> arrives. Both the program application and the university application must be submitted in full by the Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> deadline in order to be reviewed.

There are two parts to the application: the **University application** and the **Program application**. Each are described more fully in the next slides.

1. **University application.** First apply to the University via **Cal State Apply**,
2. **Program application:** Then apply to the Program via our online application

Please go to: <http://www.csudh.edu/coe/programs/grad-ed/school-counseling>  
to download our program flatsheet and FAQs.

Both these documents explain application procedures in detail.

# Application Procedures

## Part I - University Application:

1. Apply to the University by Feb. 1 for Fall admissions through Cal State Apply:  
<https://www2.calstate.edu/apply/graduate>
2. Refer to the step-by-step instructions provided in the *Cal State Apply Instruction Guide for the Counseling Program* available on our website:  
<https://www.csudh.edu/coe/programs/grad-ed/school-counseling>
3. Apply to Cal State Apply first, ideally at least two weeks before applying to the program, because you will need to be issued a student id# for the program application. The two week period does not apply to current or former CSUDH students, as they should already have a student id#.
4. Submit one sealed set of official transcripts of all coursework to CSUDH Office of Admissions & Records (CSUDH students excluded).
5. The bachelor's degree must be posted no later than the Spring term prior to the Fall semester you are applying to.

# Application Procedures

## Part II – Program Application Requirements

Our Program Application is completely online. All documents, including transcripts, will need to be uploaded into the online application. Please follow the instructions provided on the application website and the program flatsheet.

You will need to:

1. Complete our online program application at: <https://csudh-coe.fluidreview.com>
2. Pay \$50 application fee via ToroPay, then scan and upload receipt to application.
3. Open and upload official transcripts from all coursework.
4. Demonstrate a minimum of a cumulative 3.0 GPA or target GRE score of 300 (see FAQs).
5. Submit a Certificate of Clearance or a Teaching or Substitute Credential
6. Provide three recommendations (to be sent by your referrers via our email request)
7. Submit a Statement of Purpose (see program flatsheet)
8. Attend a Personal Interview (if selected)

Please go to: <http://www.csudh.edu/coe/programs/grad-ed/school-counseling>  
to download our program flatsheet and FAQs to assist in your program application.



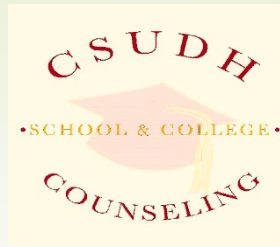
## Tuition

Tuition depends on how many courses you take per semester, based on if you attend part-time (6 units or less) vs. full-time (7 units or more).

Most of our students are on Financial Aid. However, *Federally* subsidized aid only covers Master's students and not students only pursuing the PPS credential or the College Counseling Certificate.

For more information, go to [www.csudh.edu](http://www.csudh.edu) and search "tuition".

Links to Financial Aid resources are also on [csudh.edu](http://csudh.edu)



**It is recommended that all applicants carefully review the following links and documents for answers to additional questions:**

- **Our Program website with Program flatsheet, FAQs:**  
<https://www.csudh.edu/coe/programs/grad-ed/school-counseling>
- **University application:**  
<https://www2.calstate.edu/apply/graduate>
- **Program application:**  
<https://csudh-coe.fluidreview.com>





**Thank you for your interest!**

Follow us on Instagram: @toro\_counselors and @gca.csudh

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