



**SCHOOL OF LEADERSHIP AND EDUCATION SCIENCES**

Mother Rosalie Hill Hall  
5998 Alcalá Park  
San Diego, CA 92110-2492



**Master of Arts in Counseling**  
Specialization in School Counseling with  
Pupil Personnel Services Credential



**SCHOOL OF LEADERSHIP AND EDUCATION SCIENCES**

**Contact Information**

**For admissions and general program information:**

Office of Outreach and Recruitment  
Phone: (619) 260-7988  
E-mail: [solesgrads@san Diego.edu](mailto:solesgrads@san Diego.edu)

**For information about the School Counseling Specialization and Pupil Personnel Services Credential:**

Lonnie Rowell, PhD  
School Counseling Specialization Coordinator  
Phone: (619) 260-4212  
E-mail: [lrowell@san Diego.edu](mailto:lrowell@san Diego.edu)

**For more information:**

[www.sandiego.edu/soles/admissions](http://www.sandiego.edu/soles/admissions)







## Master of Arts in Counseling Specialization in School Counseling with Pupil Personnel Services Credential



### Program Overview

The Master of Arts in Counseling at the University of San Diego's (USD) School of Leadership and Education Sciences (SOLES) prepares students to become professional counselors. We offer specializations in school and clinical mental health counseling.

Students who specialize in School Counseling plan to be school counselors in elementary, middle school/junior high and high school settings or to work with agencies serving K–12 children and their families. Students have knowledge and skills in student advocacy and student support as well as in the design, implementation, and evaluation of comprehensive guidance and counseling programs. The USD School Counseling Specialization stresses the development of leadership skills in transforming school counseling. The requirements for the California Pupil Personnel Services Credential with an emphasis in School Counseling can be met through this degree program.

### Distinguishing Features

- The School Counseling Specialization is a CACREP approved program. The program also meets the standards for the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC). The requirements for the Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) Credential with an emphasis in school counseling are also met through the program, which is approved for the School Counseling Specialization by the California Commission for Teacher Credentialing (CTC).
- A unique feature of our program is student involvement with the Center for Student Support Systems (CS3) — a research, advocacy and professional development center linked with the Counseling Program. CS3 provides leadership development in school counseling, offers trainings and professional development in student support and engages in research in school counseling.

- We help our students develop an identity as professional counselors through coursework, reflective practice, networking with practicing professionals through local, state and national conferences and active involvement in professional associations.
- Our program has a diverse faculty and graduate student population. All graduate students at SOLES are required to participate in an international experience as a part of our commitment to the development of multicultural competence. We promote internationalization of students and faculty through participation in study abroad courses, international conferences and bi-national and multinational research and projects.
- We prepare our students to deliver individual and group counseling services, classroom guidance, training presentations, consultation, and team facilitation and to provide results-based comprehensive counseling and guidance programs.
- Our classes are in the afternoons and evenings to accommodate the needs of working students.

### Program Curriculum

SOLES faculty members enrich all programs and course offerings with the values, concepts and themes that will help students become ethical, civic-minded and committed leaders in their chosen fields. The Master of Arts in Counseling, School Counseling Specialization, with Pupil Personnel Services Credential consists of 48 units. A prerequisite course in Educational Psychology focused on K–12 learning is also required.

#### Core Courses (30 units)

COUN 503	Professional Orientation and Ethics in Counseling	3 units
COUN 504	Prepracticum in Counseling Techniques	3 units
COUN 505	Human Development	3 units
COUN 508	Research Methods in Counseling	3 units
COUN 510	Career Development Across the Lifespan	3 units
COUN 515	Multicultural Counseling	3 units
COUN 520	Counseling Psychology: Theory and Practice	3 units
COUN 525	Group Dynamics	3 units
COUN 530	Assessment Techniques in Counseling	3 units
COUN 541	Advanced Counseling: Diagnosis and Treatment Planning	3 units

#### Specialization Courses (18 units)

COUN 518	Organization of Student Support Systems	3 units
COUN 536	Counseling Children and Youth in School Settings	3 units
COUN 537	Applied Techniques for Counseling in School Settings	3 units
COUN 588P	Practicum: School	3 units
COUN 590F	Fieldwork in School Settings Taken twice	3 units

### Admission Requirements

- Submit the Graduate School Admission Application and Statement of Purpose online at [www.sandiego.edu/admissions/graduate/application.php](http://www.sandiego.edu/admissions/graduate/application.php). The Statement of Purpose should describe how the USD program will fit your personal and professional goals. Please include your strengths in interpersonal skills, experiences with cultural diversity, involvement in team building, and participation in volunteer activities.
- Submit all college or university transcripts. Applicants must submit one official sealed transcript from every college or university attended. A minimum grade point average of 2.75 (on a 4.0 scale) is required in all undergraduate/graduate coursework.

- For international students only: transcripts must be issued in English by the academic institution or must be officially translated by an approved agency. Applicants are required to have their foreign transcripts evaluated by an independent credential evaluation service. Applicants may contact The International Education Research Foundation, Inc. and request a Detail Report, or World Education Services and request a Course-by-Course Report.

- Submit three professional letters of recommendations from either professors or employers. Please do not submit personal recommendations.
- Submit a resume.
- The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is not required.
- Additional requirements for international students:
  - Submit the official results of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Minimum requirements are 83 (Internet-based), 237 (computer-based), or 580 (paper-based).
  - Submit Certification of Finances Form and supporting documents. Please visit [www.sandiego.edu/admissions/graduate/international.php](http://www.sandiego.edu/admissions/graduate/international.php) for form and additional information.

#### Application Deadlines:

Summer/fall early admissions deadline is Jan. 31 and regular admissions deadline is March 1.

#### Financial Aid

Students may be eligible to apply for additional scholarships and financial aid through SOLES. To learn more about the opportunities available, please visit [www.sandiego.edu/soles/financialaid](http://www.sandiego.edu/soles/financialaid).

