

Master of Counselling (SCM401.1)

Please note these are the 2026 details for this course

Domestic students

Selection rank	PG
Delivery mode	Online Plus
Location	UC - Canberra, Online
Duration	2.0 years
Faculty	Faculty of Health
Discipline	Discipline of Counselling
UAC code	

English language requirements	<p>There are non-standard English language requirements for this course. To be eligible you must have an overall IELTS Academic score (or equivalent) of 7.0, with no band score below 7.0. For alternate/equivalent ways of meeting the English requirements for this course please view the English Proficiency Requirements document on the university website.</p> <p>View IELTS equivalences</p>
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International students

Academic entry requirements	<p>To study at UC, you'll need to meet our academic entry requirements and any admission requirements specific to your course. Please read your course admission requirements below. To find out whether you meet UC's academic entry requirements, visit our academic entry requirements page.</p>
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[View UC's academic entry requirements](#)

Delivery mode

Location

Duration 2.0 years

Faculty Faculty of Health

Discipline Discipline of Counselling

CRICOS code

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[View IELTS equivalences](#)

About this course

The Master of Counselling provides advanced training in counselling, as well as a pathway to registration with the Australian Counselling Association – the nation's professional accreditation body for counsellors and psychotherapists. The course places an emphasis on skills development, interactive teaching, experiential learning and self-awareness, supporting the student to:

- Develop skills in critical thinking, communication, problem solving, and advanced approaches to working with clients.
- Access experiential, collaborative and holistic approaches to learning, enabling the development of in-depth practical knowledge and skills, self-awareness and reflexivity.
- Work with diverse range of clients, respecting the importance of social and cultural contexts.
- Access the most recent and relevant academic conventions and materials to complete a research project.
- Students will undertake counselling placements within an appropriate agency, while being guided by qualified clinical supervisors and learning from peers.

This course includes a compulsory placement of 200 hours. Students will be expected to travel up to 1.5 hours to attend a placement, or in the case of regional and remote students, may need to travel further or potentially relocate for the duration of the placement if one cannot be secured in their area. In addition to the placement requirements, students will be required to attend a 5-day intensive workshop in person. The location of this is to be determined, with an on-campus site being certain.

The Master of Counselling is currently not eligible for Austudy assistance through Centrelink. Please visit this website for further information: [Austudy - Services Australia](#)

Online with Expert Placement Support

Whether helping others cope with crisis, put challenges into perspective or find a life worth living, guide the way and practise respectful and inclusive counselling. The Master of Counselling consists of research-led content that is delivered via supported and interactive teaching, while allowing students to undertake experiential learning. Students will work closely with clinical supervisors while undertaking placement units. Click through to download our course brochure to learn more about our online Master of Counselling.

Enquire Now

Professional accreditation

The course is recognised as a professional qualification in counselling and accredited by the Australian Counselling Association (ACA), in line with their Professional Training Standards.

Admission requirements

Admission to this course is competitive. Applications will be assessed on the basis of academic merit, work experience and the number of available places.

Applicants must:

1. have an undergraduate or postgraduate degree in any discipline.

No Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) will be offered for any units included in this course.

We recommend that students progressing to this course from the Graduate Certificate in Counselling (SCC401) complete the four Graduate Certificate units before progressing to the Graduate Diploma or Master to ensure a smooth enrolment transition.

Additional admission requirements

Students are required to undergo a National Police check and relevant state-based checks (i.e. Working with Vulnerable People Check, Working With Children Check) as required by each placement agency in order to be accepted for each unit that includes a placement.

Assumed knowledge

None.

Periods course is open for new admissions

Year	Location	Teaching period	Teaching start date	Domestic	International
2026	UC - Canberra, Online	Study Block 1	19 January 2026	✓	
2026	UC - Canberra, Online	Study Block 2	16 March 2026	✓	
2026	UC - Canberra, Online	Study Block 3	11 May 2026	✓	
2026	UC - Canberra, Online	Study Block 4	06 July 2026	✓	
2026	UC - Canberra, Online	Study Block 5	31 August 2026	✓	
2026	UC - Canberra, Online	Study Block 6	26 October 2026	✓	
2027	UC - Canberra, Online	Study Block 1	18 January 2027	✓	
2027	UC - Canberra, Online	Study Block 2	15 March 2027	✓	
2027	UC - Canberra, Online	Study Block 3	10 May 2027	✓	
2027	UC - Canberra, Online	Study Block 4	05 July 2027	✓	
2027	UC - Canberra, Online	Study Block 5	30 August 2027	✓	
2027	UC - Canberra, Online	Study Block 6	25 October 2027	✓	

Credit arrangements

A credit transfer arrangement is available for this course for the following institutions:

University Of Canberra

[Graduate Certificate in Counselling \(29238\)](#)

[Graduate Diploma in Counselling \(29218\)](#)

Course requirements

Master of Counselling (SCM401) | 36 credit points

Required - Must pass 30 credit points as follows

[Expand All](#) | [Collapse All](#)

Counselling Theory and Approaches G (11739) | 3 credit points — Level G

Core Counselling Skills G (11740) | 3 credit points — Level G

Principles of Ethical Conduct in Counselling G (11741) | 3 credit points — Level G

Diversity Inclusion Respect G (11742) | 3 credit points — Level G

Introduction to Placement and Supervision PG (11743) | 3 credit points — Level P

Counselling Skills in Practice PG (11744) | 3 credit points — Level P

Loss, Grief and Trauma in Counselling PG (11745) | 3 credit points — Level P

Understanding Mental Health PG (11748) | 3 credit points — Level P

Next Level Counselling Skills PG (11749) | 3 credit points — Level P

Creative Practices in Counselling PG (11750) | 3 credit points — Level P

Restricted Choice - 6 credit points as follows

Part A - Must select 1 of the following

Placement A - Putting it all into Practice PG (11746) | 3 credit points — Level P

Professional Placement (Part A) PG (11988) | 0 credit points — Level P

- From 2023, unit 11988 Professional Placement (Part A) PG replaces unit 11746 Placements A - Putting it all into Practice PG

Part B - Must select 1 of the following

Placement B - Masters Practicum PG (11747) | 3 credit points — Level P

Professional Placement (Part B) PG (11989) | 6 credit points — Level P

- From 2023, unit 11989 Professional Placement (Part B) PG replaces unit 11747 Placements B - Masters Practicum PG

- Unit 11747 Placement B Masters Practicum PG will only be available for students who completed SCG401 Graduate Diploma in Counselling including unit 11746 Placement A Putting it all into Practice PG

In addition to course requirements, in order to successfully complete your course you must meet the inherent requirements. Please refer to the [inherent requirements statement](#) applicable to your course

Typical study pattern

Course information

Course duration

Standard 2 years part time (12 study blocks). * Maximum 5 years from date of enrolment to date of course completion. *The duration is dependent on individual study path and placement requirements.

Learning outcomes

Learning outcomes	Related graduate attributes
Demonstrate and justify the selection of integrated and advanced discipline specific theoretical knowledge and skill-based practice.	<p>UC graduates are professional: Employ up-to-date and relevant knowledge and skills; communicate effectively; use creativity, critical thinking, analysis and research skills to solve theoretical and real-world problems; work collaboratively as part of a team, negotiate, and resolve conflict; display initiative and drive, and use their organisational skills to plan and manage their workload; and take pride in their professional and personal integrity.</p> <p>UC graduates are global citizens: Think globally about issues in their profession; adopt an informed and balanced approach across professional and international boundaries; understand issues in their profession from the perspective of other cultures; communicate effectively in diverse cultural and social settings; make creative use of technology in their learning and professional lives; and behave ethically and sustainably in their professional and personal lives.</p> <p>UC graduates are lifelong learners: Reflect on their own practice, updating and adapting their knowledge and skills for continual professional and academic development; be self-aware; adapt to complexity, ambiguity and change by being flexible and keen to engage with new ideas; and evaluate and adopt new technology.</p> <p>UC graduates are able to demonstrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ways of knowing, being and doing: Use local Indigenous histories and traditional ecological knowledge to develop and augment understanding of their discipline; communicate and engage with Indigenous Australians in ethical and culturally respectful ways; and apply their knowledge to working with Indigenous Australians in socially just ways.</p>
Synthesise literature in and across relevant fields to inform professional practice and support pathways to further learning.	<p>UC graduates are professional: Employ up-to-date and relevant knowledge and skills; communicate effectively; use creativity, critical thinking, analysis and research skills to solve theoretical and real-world problems; display initiative and drive, and use their organisational skills to plan and manage their workload; and take pride in their professional and personal integrity.</p> <p>UC graduates are global citizens: Understand issues in their profession from the perspective of other cultures; communicate effectively in diverse cultural and social</p>

settings; and behave ethically and sustainably in their professional and personal lives.

UC graduates are lifelong learners: Reflect on their own practice, updating and adapting their knowledge and skills for continual professional and academic development; adapt to complexity, ambiguity and change by being flexible and keen to engage with new ideas; and evaluate and adopt new technology.

UC graduates are able to demonstrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ways of knowing, being and doing: Use local Indigenous histories and traditional ecological knowledge to develop and augment understanding of their discipline; and apply their knowledge to working with Indigenous Australians in socially just ways.

Build on integrated technology literacies and capacities in professional practice.	<p>UC graduates are professional: Use creativity, critical thinking, analysis and research skills to solve theoretical and real-world problems.</p> <p>UC graduates are global citizens: Think globally about issues in their profession; communicate effectively in diverse cultural and social settings; and make creative use of technology in their learning and professional lives.</p> <p>UC graduates are lifelong learners: Adapt to complexity, ambiguity and change by being flexible and keen to engage with new ideas; and evaluate and adopt new technology.</p>
Communicate relevant professional knowledge effectively and respectfully to a variety of audiences and in different formats.	<p>UC graduates are professional: Employ up-to-date and relevant knowledge and skills; communicate effectively; use creativity, critical thinking, analysis and research skills to solve theoretical and real-world problems; work collaboratively as part of a team, negotiate, and resolve conflict; display initiative and drive, and use their organisational skills to plan and manage their workload; and take pride in their professional and personal integrity.</p> <p>UC graduates are global citizens: Think globally about issues in their profession; adopt an informed and balanced approach across professional and international boundaries; understand issues in their profession from the perspective of other cultures; communicate effectively in diverse cultural and social settings; and behave ethically and sustainably in their professional and personal lives.</p> <p>UC graduates are lifelong learners: Reflect on their own practice, updating and adapting their knowledge and skills for continual professional and academic development; adapt to complexity, ambiguity and change by being flexible and keen to engage with new ideas; and evaluate and adopt new technology.</p>

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Demonstrate and incorporate reflective practice in personal and professional development.	<p>UC graduates are professional: Employ up-to-date and relevant knowledge and skills; use creativity, critical thinking, analysis and research skills to solve theoretical and real-world problems; work collaboratively as part of a team, negotiate, and resolve conflict; display initiative and drive, and use their organisational skills to plan and manage their workload; and take pride in their professional and personal integrity.</p> <p>UC graduates are global citizens: Think globally about issues in their profession; understand issues in their profession from the perspective of other cultures; communicate effectively in diverse cultural and social settings; make creative use of technology in their learning and professional lives; and behave ethically and sustainably in their professional and personal lives.</p> <p>UC graduates are lifelong learners: Reflect on their own practice, updating and adapting their knowledge and skills for continual professional and academic development; be self-aware; adapt to complexity, ambiguity and change by being flexible and keen to engage with new ideas; and evaluate and adopt new technology.</p>
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Demonstrate advanced collaborative and leadership skills.

UC graduates are professional: Employ up-to-date and relevant knowledge and skills; use creativity, critical thinking, analysis and research skills to solve theoretical and real-world problems; work collaboratively as part of a team, negotiate, and resolve conflict; display initiative and drive, and use their organisational skills to plan and manage their workload; and take pride in their professional and personal integrity.

UC graduates are global citizens: Think globally about issues in their profession; communicate effectively in diverse cultural and social settings; make creative use of technology in their learning and professional lives; and behave ethically and sustainably in their professional and personal lives.

UC graduates are lifelong learners: Reflect on their own practice, updating and adapting their knowledge and skills for continual professional and academic development; be self-aware; adapt to complexity, ambiguity and change by being flexible and keen to engage with new ideas; and evaluate and adopt new technology.

<p>Demonstrate ethical awareness and professional conduct in the context of the counselling profession and its obligations to diversity, communities and society.</p>	<p>UC graduates are professional: Employ up-to-date and relevant knowledge and skills; communicate effectively; use creativity, critical thinking, analysis and research skills to solve theoretical and real-world problems; work collaboratively as part of a team, negotiate, and resolve conflict; display initiative and drive, and use their organisational skills to plan and manage their workload; and take pride in their professional and personal integrity.</p> <p>UC graduates are global citizens: Think globally about issues in their profession; adopt an informed and balanced approach across professional and international boundaries; understand issues in their profession from the perspective of other cultures; communicate effectively in diverse cultural and social settings; make creative use of technology in their learning and professional lives; and behave ethically and sustainably in their professional and personal lives.</p> <p>UC graduates are lifelong learners: Reflect on their own practice, updating and adapting their knowledge and skills for continual professional and academic development; be self-aware; and adapt to complexity, ambiguity and change by being flexible and keen to engage with new ideas.</p> <p>UC graduates are able to demonstrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ways of knowing, being and doing: Use local Indigenous histories and traditional ecological knowledge to develop and augment understanding of their discipline; communicate and engage with Indigenous Australians in ethical and culturally respectful ways; and apply their knowledge to working with Indigenous Australians in socially just ways.</p>
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Placements requirements

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Awards

Award	Official abbreviation
Master of Counselling	M Couns

Alternative exits

SCC401 Graduate Certificate in Counselling and SCG401 Graduate Diploma in Counselling. For details see the individual course entries.

Enrolment data

2023 enrolments for this course by location. Please note that enrolment numbers are indicative only and in no way reflect individual class sizes.

Location	Enrolments
UC - Canberra, Online	692

Enquiries

Student category	Contact details
Prospective Students	Email: study@canberra.edu.au or Phone: 1800 UNI CAN (1800 864 226)
Current and Commencing Students	Email: Health.Student@canberra.edu.au

Download your course guide



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Printed on 11, May, 2025

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CRICOS 00212K

TEQSA Provider ID: PRV12003 (Australian University)

UC acknowledges the Ngunnawal people, traditional custodians of the lands where Bruce campus is situated. We wish to acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of Canberra and the region. We also acknowledge all other First Nations Peoples on whose lands we gather.