Doctor of Education
In Educational Psychology
With an Emphasis in Mental Health
(MA in Counseling &
Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC))

School Psychology and Counseling
School of Education

La Sierra University
School of Education
4500 Riverwalk Parkway
Riverside, CA 92515
Doctor of Education in Mental Health

This is an elective program, which will assist a person in working towards becoming a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC) through the Board of Behavioral Sciences in California.

What kind of a career can such a degree offer?

Under appropriate licensed supervision, counselors can work in a variety of settings to include mental health centers/clinics, psychiatric hospitals, social service agencies, government bodies/agencies, and private practice settings. Counselors are often involved in such areas as intake assessment evaluations, crisis intervention, individual and/or group counseling, individual/group testing, and/or research.

There is an obvious advantage regarding licensure for those individuals seeking a LPCC. If counselors are licensed by a state, then they do not need to work under clinical supervision. This allows them to not only work in a variety of clinical settings but it offers opportunities for private practice.

The coursework in this program will allow you to be eligible to apply for licensure as a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor through the Board of Behavioral Sciences in California. The University has been formally approved to offer the coursework, which is noted below.

Prerequisites:

Legal/Health Clearance

The absence of any conviction for a felony or any communicable or contagious disease, which would prevent the student from teaching or performing other certified services, must be attested to. Students should apply for state criminal clearance immediately following admission to any of the state credential or licensure programs.
Department Interview

A preadmission interview and writing test are to be scheduled when possible with at least two faculty members in the Department of School Psychology and Counseling who will evaluate the applicant's expressiveness, commitment, values, cultural affirmation, and professional attitudes. When admission is granted without a prior interview, an appointment must be made with the department chair during the first few weeks of residence before program approval. Continuation in the program is contingent upon a satisfactory rating by the interviewers.

Graduate Record Examination

In addition, a Graduate Record Exam (GRE) is required. A student's acceptance into the Ed.S. program, or advancement into the Ed.S. program from the M.A. in Counseling program (provisionally or regularly), depends the following scores: the GPA, GRE, departmental interview, and writing sample.

The Program:

The program includes all of the coursework and fieldwork listed below. Please note that some courses require 1.5 unit practicums in conjunction with the regular courses, these are listed as 4.5 unit courses (e.g., for EDPC 561, you would take EDPC 561 for 3.0 units and EDPC 561-P for 1.5 units). Two of the core courses listed above are for 4.5 units. Other 4.5 units are listed elsewhere. Some individuals may require more than the minimum 132 units because of particular interests or the need to remove prerequisite deficiencies as listed above and below. For course description, please check La Sierra Academic Bulletins.

Required Core and Methodology (33 Units):

- Educational Organization and Leadership
  - EDAD 524*
  - 3.0 units
- Curriculum Planning
  - EDCI 514*
  - 3.0 units
- Faith and Learning
  - EDCI 512
  - 3.0 units
• Methods and Materials of Research  EDRS  504  4.5 units
• Counseling Theories and Techniques  EDPC  561  4.5 units
• Educational Statistics I  EDRS  604  3.0 units
• Educational Statistics II  EDRS  702  3.0 units
• Research Design  EDRS  704  3.0 units
• Contemporary Issues in Education  EDFO  791  3.0 units
• One Advanced Research Method  

* EDAD 524 can be replaced with EDAD 540 Personality and Philosophical Aspects of Leadership whereas EDCI 514 can be replaced with EDCI 545 Brain Research and Learning at a student’s discretion.

**CONTENT SPECIALIZATION (88.5 UNITS):**

• Standardized Testing in Education  EDPC  504  4.5 units
• Lifespan Development  EDPC  524  4.5 units
• Education and Career Planning  EDPC  554  4.5 units
• Counseling Practicum  EDPC  562  9.0 units
• Group Theory and Procedures  EDPC  564  4.5 units
• Community Agency Counseling  EDPC  568*  4.5 units
• School Psychology and Counseling Ethics/Law  EDPC  573  4.5 units
• Dynamics of Personality  EDPC  607  4.5 units
• Human Sexuality  EDPC  610  4.5 units
• Child, Partner, and Elder Abuse  EDPC  615  4.5 units
• Marriage and Family I  EDPC  620  4.5 units
• Marriage and Family II  EDPC  621  4.5 units
• Psychopathology  EDPC  631  4.5 units
• Psychopharmacology  EDPC  645  4.5 units
• Advanced Counseling Theories  EDPC  655  4.5 units
• Intervention Methods and Consultation  EDPC  666  4.5 units
• Seminar: Individual and Cultural Differences  EDPC  694A  4.5 units
• Seminar: Alcohol and Drug Addictions  
  EDPC  715  4.5 units
• One Advanced Specialization Courses  
  3.0 units

NOTE: Some course work must be taken as two courses to total 4.5 units (e.g., EDPC 561 Counseling Theories and Techniques and EDPC 561-P Counseling Theories and Techniques Practicum for 1.5 units) whereas other courses such as EDPC 610, 615, 620, 621, and 645 are designed to be 4.5 unit courses and do not need an associated practicum.

DISSERTATION COURSEWORK (12 UNITS)
• Ed.D. Dissertation  
  EDPC  798  12.0 units

POST DEGREE INTERNSHIP (3000 HOURS)

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

1. If wanting to collect any hours in a school setting, a passing score on the California Basic Education Skills Test (CBEST) is required before any practicum, field practice, or internship hours can be collected. As many as 1250 hours of the 3000-hour internship can be collected in settings other than a community counseling agency such as a school setting as long as a person is supervised by a licensed clinician who is also a credentialed school psychologist.

2. Application for field practice six weeks prior to placement.

3. A fingerprint clearance as well as a TB clearance must be obtained before gathering practicum, field practice, or internship hours in either a school setting or a community counseling agency setting. If wanting to collect hours from a school setting, you must receive a certificate of clearance from the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC), which involves a fingerprint clearance. Again, all necessary clearances are required before gathering practicum, field practice, or internship hours in either a school setting or a community counseling agency setting.

4. At the conclusion of their program, a passing score must be obtained on a departmental comprehensive exam.

5. Students must procure an appropriate internship placement. They must be supervised
by someone with a valid clinical license to include the following: licensed marriage and family therapists, licensed clinical social workers, clinical psychologists, and psychiatrists who are certified in psychiatry and neurology as well as licensed professional clinical counselors. Other requirements apply—please consult with the Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) for more information.