

PROGRAM GOAL

Our program philosophy is to train high quality professionals who are competent to work with diverse populations within their area of specialization. Like the undergraduate program, the graduate faculty will be dedicated to training and mentoring students within an integrated understanding of Christian faith and professional practice with emphasis on student academic, professional, and cultural competence. Courses are designed to meet the requirements for California licensure as either a Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) or a Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC). Students will have the option of holding dual licenses or to focus on one license.

Classes will be traditional face-to-face format with collaborative learning experiences for individuals who wish to develop a solid foundation in the applied practice of professional counseling with individuals, couples, and families. Counseling skills will be developed through in-class role-playing techniques, observation of live therapy, closely supervised training sessions at a training clinic associated with PLNU, and through practicum experiences with local nonprofit agencies.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES (PLO)

The core curriculum goals of the MACC program are designed to develop students with these key outcomes:

1. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the fundamental domains in their selected area of specialization, in professional clinical counseling (i.e., foundations; counseling prevention, and intervention, diversity; research & advocacy; assessment & evaluation; and diagnosis) or marriage and family therapy (i.e., human development, family dynamics, systemic thinking, interactional theories, traditional and contemporary marriage and family theories, research and cultural context).
2. Students will demonstrate ability to apply relevant research and evaluation models in practice of clinical counseling.
3. Students will demonstrate skills and practices of clinical counseling in the delivery of mental health services (e.g., assessment, diagnosis, treatment, termination, documentation, & ethical practice).
4. Students will demonstrate ability to integrate faith with clinical counseling practice in a clinically appropriate, culturally sensitive, and ethical manner.