

**Elevation of the
M.S. Counseling – Option in Marriage, Family, and Child
Counseling
to a
Master of Science in Marriage, Family, and Child
Counseling**

**Department of Counselor Education and Rehabilitation,
Kremen School of Education and Human Development**

1. Program Type

Option Elevation

2. Program Identification

a. Campus

California State University – Fresno

b. Full and exact degree designation and title

Master of Science in Marriage, Family, and Child Counseling (hereafter
in this document referred to as M.S. – MFCC)

c. Term and academic year of intended implementation

Fall 2019

**d. Total number of units required for graduation. This will include
all requirements, not just major requirements.**

60 Units

- e. Name of the Department division, or other unit of the campus that would offer the proposed degree major program. Please identify the unit that will have primary responsibility.**

The M.S. – MFCC will be housed in the Dept. of Counselor Education and Rehabilitation in the Kremen School of Education and Human Development

- f. Name, title and rank of the individual(s) primarily responsible for drafting the proposed option or concentration elevation to a full degree major program**

Christopher Lucey, Ph.D., LMFT, Professor, Program Coordinator; Kyle N. Weir, Ph.D., LMFT, Professor;

Song Lee, Ph.D., LMFT, Associate Professor, Dept. Chair;

Jeff Crane, Ph.D., AMFT, Assistant Professor;

Sergio Pereyra, Ph.D., AMFT, Assistant Professor

Mandy Greaves, MS., AMFT, Assistant Professor

- g. Please verify whether the proposed program is subject to WASC Substantive Change review. The campus may submit a copy of the WASC Sub-Change proposal in lieu of this CSU proposal format. If campuses choose to submit the WASC Substantive Change Proposal, they will also be required to submit a program assessment plan using the format found in the CSU program proposal template.**

There are no substantive changes to the current program as outlined in the elevated program. As such, no WASC Substantive Change review is warranted. The program curriculum as presently constituted in the current M.S. in Counseling – Option MFCC will remain the same in the newly elevated stand-alone degree program M.S. in MFCC.

h. Optional: Proposed Classification of Instructional Programs and CSU Degree Program Code

Proposed Classification of Instructional Programs and CSU Degree Program Code: 13051 Marriage and Family Therapy and CIP Code 51.1505.

i. Please provide teach-out policy language to accommodate those students who will complete the original program with the option or concentration.

Because the course curriculum will remain the same in both the current and proposed options, transitioning or “teach-out” policy should be of minimal disruption to the students. The courses will continue to be offered and the students admitted under the prior degree. We will encourage existing students to switch their degree

title major to the new degree title. If they wish to maintain the former degree title (perhaps they are nearing the last semester or two of their coursework), they will simply finish their degree as scheduled. All newly admitted students will be admitted to the new degree option and the transition should be completed within approximately two years as the students in the former degree graduate.

- j. Provided evidence the current option will be discontinued once all existing students exit the program.**

Once the new M.S. in MFCC is established and in place, the faculty will then apply to the Chancellor's Office to terminate the prior degree according to the timeline specified above. The degree will then be terminated once the last remaining students have graduated from the program.

3. Program Overview and Rationale

- a. Provide a rationale for option or concentration elevation to a full degree program. Include a brief description of the program, its purpose and strengths, fit with institutional mission, and a justification for elevating the option or concentration to a full degree program at this time.**

There are several important reasons why the M.S. in Counseling – Option: MFCC needs to be elevated to a stand-alone degree of M.S. in MFCC. First, the Chancellor’s policy (Executive Order 1071 revised 1-20-17) requires that when multiple options or concentrations exist under the same degree, there must be at least fifty-one percent (51%) of the coursework in common. As it currently exists, the M.S. in Counseling in the Dept. of Counselor Education and rehabilitation has three options under the same degree: Marriage, Family, and Child Counseling (MFCC – 60 units), School Counseling (K-12 – 48 units), and Student Affairs and College Counseling (SACC – 48 units). While School Counseling and SACC are able to maintain the requisite common coursework of 51% of their 48-unit degree options, the MFCC option is not able to share 51% of the coursework with the other two options. The MFCC option is required to be a 60-unit master degree by the governing licensing board of our profession – the Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS). Second, the Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) has strict coursework requirements and topics that must be included in any degree that is to be approved for licensure purposes. School Counseling and SACC do not fall under the purview of the BBS, but the MFCC option does as our graduates go on to pursue licensure as Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFTs) through the BBS after acquiring more clinical hours’ post-graduation.

School Counseling (K-12) students can immediately apply for the Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) credential from the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC) but do not need further clinical training after graduation and do not need BBS approval. SACC students pursue no further post-degree licensing or credentialing to perform their roles on colleges and universities in California. Only the MFCC option is rigorously regulated by the BBS to require the 60-unit specific coursework for the educational requirements for MFT licensure, so it is not feasible for the MFCC option to seek 51% coursework commonality with the School Counseling or SACC options. Furthermore, the Board of Behavioral Sciences has very limited degree titles that it will accept to meet the educational requirements for the MFT license. Essentially, our options for titles acceptable to CA BBS would either be MS in Marriage and Family Therapy or MS in Marriage, Family, and Child Counseling. Our accrediting body is called CACREP (Counseling and Counseling Related Educational Programs), and is hosted by the American Counseling Association (ACA). ACA/CACREP eschews the word “therapist” and the title “marriage and family therapy.” They require we use the word “counselor” in our title rather than the word “therapist” (even though the license our students will eventually receive is as a licensed marriage and family therapist). So realistically, to satisfy both the BBS and CACREP our

only feasible degree title is an MS in Marriage, Family, and Child Counseling.

- b. Provide the proposed catalog copy description, including program overview, degree requirements (including course catalog numbers, titles, and units), and admission requirements. For master's degrees, please also include catalog copy describing the culminating experience requirement(s).**

Catalog copy is attached

- c. Provide written documentation of the campus approval process with written evidence of a significantly greater campus and administrative commitment to sustain the stand-alone program than was required to establish it as a specialization area.**

See attached signatures of MFCC program coordinator, CER department chair, KSOEHD Graduate Committee chair, and KSOEHD dean.

4. Curriculum

- a. Provide a side-by-side comparison showing the course requirements of the existing degree major and concentration on one side and the proposed new major on the other.**

The coursework for the current degree (MS in Counseling, Option MFCC) and the proposed stand-alone degree (MS in MFCC) will be exactly the same. No coursework curriculum will be changed or amended.

b. These program proposal elements are required:

- **Comprehensive assessment plan addressing all assessment elements;**
- **Matrix showing where student learning outcomes are introduced (I), developed (D), and mastered (M)**

Assessment/student learning outcomes (MFCC SOAP) is attached including a matrix showing where student learning outcomes are introduced.

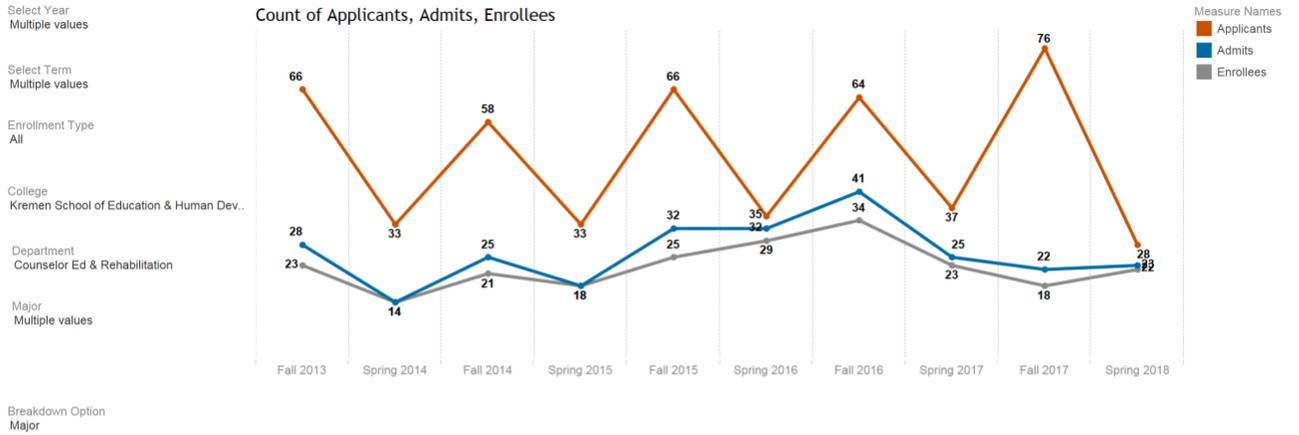
5. Evidence of Student Demand

Please provide enrollment numbers in the current option for the past three to five years to provide evidence of sustained and possible future interest in the program

Table 1.

Applicants, Admits, Enrollees
 from Fall 2013 to Spring 2018
 Student Enrollment Type: All
 College: Kremen School of Education & Human Development Majors

[Glossary Link](#)



Admits as Percent of Applicants (count of applicants) by Major
 (Select specific row/column or cell(s) to see trends chart)

	Fall 2013	Spring 2014	Fall 2014	Spring 2015	Fall 2015	Spring 2016	Fall 2016	Spring 2017	Fall 2017	Spring 2018
Counseling-Marriage Fam & CC	8% (13)	42% (33)	43% (58)	55% (33)	48% (66)					
*Counseling-Marr & Fam Thera..	51% (53)									
Counseling-Marriage Fam & CC						91% (35)	64% (64)	68% (37)	29% (76)	82% (28)
Grand Total	42% (66)	42% (33)	43% (58)	55% (33)	48% (66)	91% (35)	64% (64)	68% (37)	29% (76)	82% (28)

Enrollees as Percent of Admits (count of admits) by Major
 (Select specific row/column or cell(s) to see trends chart)

	Fall 2013	Spring 2014	Fall 2014	Spring 2015	Fall 2015	Spring 2016	Fall 2016	Spring 2017	Fall 2017	Spring 2018
Counseling-Marriage Fam & CC	0% (1)	100% (14)	84% (25)	100% (18)	78% (32)					
*Counseling-Marr & Fam Thera..	85% (27)									
Counseling-Marriage Fam & CC						91% (32)	83% (41)	92% (25)	82% (22)	96% (23)
Grand Total	82% (28)	100% (14)	84% (25)	100% (18)	78% (32)	91% (32)	83% (41)	92% (25)	82% (22)	96% (23)

Bar Color: difference from prior year
 ■ increase
 ■ other

Student demand for our program is extremely high. As noted in our applications and admissions data from Tableau in Table 1, our average number of applicants for the fall semesters over the past five years is 66 applicants. For the spring semesters, the average number of applicants is 33.2 applicants. It has been our program’s stated goal to admit between 20-25 students each semester. The only times when

we did not do so was because we were restricted to admit less by the administration to meet FTES needs for the Kremen School of Education and Human Development (for example in the spring of 2014 we were only allowed to admit 14 applicants and in the spring of 2015 we were only allowed to admit 18 students). Student demand for our program is robust. We are the premier counselor education/MFCC clinical training program in the region. We raised our rigorous admissions standards and we still have at least double to triple the applicants than we can feasibly admit to our program and train. We have every reason to believe this trend will continue and our degree will be in demand.

6. Self-Support Programs

The proposed program elevation will not be self-support.

Marriage, Family, and Child Counseling Master's of Science Degree Elevation

Graduate Program Coordinator

Christopher Lucey
Typed Name Signature Date

Department Chair

Song Lee
Typed Name Signature Date

School Curriculum Committee Chair

Alicia Becton
Typed Name Signature Date

School Dean

Laura Alamillo
Typed Name Signature Date