

Master's of Science in Clinical Counseling: Dual LPCC/ LMFT Program

Proposal Abstract

The goal of this proposal is to develop a master's program that prepares students for careers as both Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC) and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) professionals (dual LPCC-LMFT). The curriculum fuses California Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) licensure requirements for both career paths. Thus, graduates can determine which license best fits their professional needs. Moreover, the program will offer an innovative curriculum that integrates state-of-the-art mental health counseling best practices for succeeding in fast-changing healthcare environments. Graduates will learn the latest evidence-based culturally-sensitive treatment approaches for diverse populations, technology-supported mental health strategies, and neurobiological bases for behavior.

Another aim of this proposal is to develop a university-community network, the Community Well-Being Partnership (CWBP), for creating and sustaining clinical training for students as well as professional development for mental health practitioners. CWBP will include mental health agencies in the North County San Diego region. CWBP will embody agreements between providers and CSUSM to support supervised clinical placements/ internships for CSUSM students. In return, CSUSM will provide professional development opportunities for supervising practitioners. Overall, the community will benefit from mental health services expanded through the partnership.

The master program's mission to develop culturally proficient mental health professionals and leaders aligns with CEE goals. This proposal addresses five CEE Framework for Action priorities:

1. Meet California's economic and workforce development needs
2. Increase access to educational opportunities by serving broader constituencies
3. Develop alternative instructional delivery systems
4. Creatively develop new programs
5. Provide personal and lifelong learning opportunities

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Evidence the Proposal Fulfills an Unmet Need

The proposed master's program in mental health counseling will address pressing and unmet mental health needs of communities in North San Diego County region, particularly underserved populations. The ethnic makeup of North San Diego County is diverse: 47% White, 33% Latino, 11% Asian/ Pacific Islander, 4% African American, and 1% American Indian. About 29% of the North County population speak a language other than English at home (County of San Diego, 2016). Approximately 25% of the San Diego County population is foreign-born (PPIC, 2015). San Diego County also has more Indian reservations (18) than any other county in the U.S. San Diego County health care providers report mental health concerns as the number one health problem. About one-fourth of underrepresented San Diego communities report experiencing frequent mental distress compared to 10% of the general population (UIHI, 2013). However, there are numerous cultural and structural barriers to providing mental health services (Brouwer, et al., 2017). Thus, culturally-appropriate mental health services are urgently needed.

*North San Diego County residents identified mental health and alcohol/ drug abuse problems among the top three most important health risk factors. Moreover, North County health providers report resident underutilization and lack of awareness of mental health services as major concerns (HHSA, 2014). From 2012 to 2014, North County patients who sought mental health services increased by 19%. Between 2010 and 2020, North County health providers will see a 54% increase in psychotic disorders, 44% increase in acute alcohol use, and 30% increase in mood disorders (Live Well, 2015). Yet, San Diego County has a higher underserved population (63%) than California (57%) and national (61%) averages (Kaiser-Permanente, 2013). *The North San Diego County region will benefit from a university-community partnership that addresses residents' urgent and unmet mental health needs.**

Detailed Proposal Description

The aim of this proposal is to support the development of a master's program that prepares students for careers as both Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC) and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) professionals. Licensure for both pathways provides professional mobility across the country. Graduates can attain either license to fit their career needs, work setting, or state of residence. The LPCC-LMFT program will offer an innovative curriculum that integrates the latest evidence-based culturally-sensitive mental health best practices. Thus, graduates will be equipped to enhance the profession and the discipline.

The Master's of Science in Clinical Counseling will be a 2-year 60-unit degree program offering advanced study of mental health diagnostic, assessment, and counseling approaches. The program will use face-to-face instruction but will have online components to facilitate preparatory training. The program will also employ a collaborative cohort approach to instill students' timely completion of graduation requirements.

In addition, this proposal seeks to develop a university-community partnership for creating and sustaining clinical training for students and professional development for mental health practitioners. The Community Well-Being Partnership (CWBP) will encompass agreements between CSUSM and regional mental health providers (mental health agencies, primary care clinics, school districts, tribal health clinics, and non-profit organizations) to provide supervised clinical training for LPCC/ LMFT students. In return, CSUSM will provide continuing education and professional development opportunities for practitioners.

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Objectives

The proposed master's will address following five objectives in the RFP's New Framework for Action:

1. *Meet California's economic and workforce development needs:*
The program will develop proficient mental health professionals needed to expand California's workforce and reduce health costs.
2. *Develop alternative instructional delivery systems:*
The program will offer online components for preparing mental health professionals for direct mental health services
3. *Increase access to educational opportunities by serving broader constituencies:*
The program will attract applicants from diverse backgrounds including first-generation and underrepresented populations.
4. *Creatively develop new programs:*
The program will offer innovative preparation and training toward dual LPCC-LMFT licensure.
5. *Provide personal and lifelong learning opportunities:*
The program will develop a community network to create clinical training for CSUSM students and professional development for mental health practitioners.

In collaboration with the Office of Extended Learning, ongoing data collection and reporting will be conducted each semester (spring 2018 to spring 2019). Progress will be monitored and results reported to campus stakeholders and Chancellor's Office per CEU criteria.

Outcomes

Develop and Implement Curriculum

Faculty will develop the course curriculum including approved course syllabi, activities, and materials. Measureable outcomes includes completion of curriculum components approved by the campus and Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) review processes.

Build a Community Partnership Network

The proposal will support the development of a university-community partnership that will sponsor and sustain clinical placements and internships. Under the supervision of qualified licensed mental health professionals, students will earn clinical hours toward degree credit and licensure-eligibility. Partnership collaborations will include hosting a community summit, negotiating agreements, and developing qualified supervisors for clinical placements. Measurable outcomes will include securing sufficient partner agreements, clinical placements, and qualified supervisors.

Promote Professional Development

The master's program will provide opportunities for the professional development of community partners. Activities include developing continuing education courses (multicultural issues, assessment, evaluation,

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etc.), engaging providers in advisory roles, and involving practitioners as guest lecturers in master’s program courses. These collaborations will enhance mental health agencies’ capacity for providing direct client services. Measurable outcomes will include generating CEU courses, providers in advisory roles, and practitioners as collaborators.

Development

Project development will extend from Spring 2018 and Fall 2019 per the following timeline:

Activities	Spring 2018	Summer 2018	Fall 2018	Spring 2019	Summer 2019	Fall 2019
Develop Curriculum						
Curriculum Review						
Create Partnerships						
Host Summit						
Search/ Hire Faculty						
Professional Development						
Implement Curriculum						

Collaboration

As noted, CSUSM will develop a viable partnership with a network of community mental health providers to promote and sustain student clinical training and professional development of practitioners. The result will be expanded mental health services to the community.

Proposal Value and Viability

This proposal fulfills CEE workforce development priorities. Local demand for master’s level counseling professionals increased by 30% from 2014 to 2017 (EAB, 2017). National demand also increased by 44% during the same period. In the next 10 years, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects robust average annual job openings for mental health counselors (20,800) and LMFTs (5,500). The master’s program and community partnership are poised to address significant workforce and community needs.

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Budget

Activities/ Sources	CSU CEU	CSUSM Extended Studies	Total
Director Assigned Time	\$15,840	\$3,960	\$19,800
Director Summer Stipend	\$5,760	\$1,440	\$7,200
Curriculum Development	\$16,000	\$4,000	\$20,000
Curriculum Consultants	\$2,400	\$600	\$3,000
Community Summit	\$2,000	\$500	\$2,500
Marketing & Recruitment	\$8,000	\$2,000	\$10,000
Total	\$50,000	\$12,500	\$62,500

Director Assigned Time

The faculty program director requests three-units of assigned time per semester for three (3) semesters (Spring 2018-Spring 2019). The assigned time will enable the program director to conduct the project, gather data, evaluate outcomes, and implement goals.

Director Summer Stipend

The faculty director will carry out the project during summer terms. The activities will include building a partnership network, cultivating clinical placements, and recruiting clinical supervisors. One to two units of faculty time are needed during summer terms.

Curriculum Development

Faculty will contribute to the development of master's program and continuing education curricula. Activities include development of course syllabi, activities, and material that fulfill campus and Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) curriculum criteria. Faculty will be compensated at \$1000 (1 unit) per faculty.

Curriculum Consultants

The proposal will be reviewed by three academic experts who have developed or directed master's counseling programs. The consultants will be contracted to review and provide input on development of the curriculum.

Community Health Provider Summit

The campus will host a community summit for regional mental health providers (administrators and practitioners) and university stakeholders (faculty, administrators, and staff from units including Extended Learning, Office of Internships, and Community Engagement). The summit will provide opportunities for community input and dialogue for developing and implementing the master's program and community partnership. The summit will be held in fall 2018.

Marketing and Recruitment

High quality recruitment materials and activities will be required to promote the proposed program. A brief survey of mental health providers to recruit partners and assess needs will be conducted. Funds are needed to secure a current list of regional providers and potential partners.

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Sustainability

The Community Well-Being Partnership will ensure sustainability of the project. The CWBP will hold meetings every semester. Providers will share community needs that inform master's program priorities. The partnership will develop common goals for the clinical training of students and professional development of supervising practitioners. The culminating success of the CWBP will produce prospective applicant and provider interest in the master's program.

Project Administration and Qualifications of Key Personnel

Dr. Gerardo M. Gonzalez, Professor of Psychology, will lead the project. In collaboration with the Office of Extended Learning, Dr. Gonzalez will direct the project activities, gather data, and evaluate results. Dr. Gonzalez has managed numerous externally- and internally-funded grant projects (NIH, NIMH, CSU, CSUSM). He served numerous campus leadership roles (Department Chair, Center Director, Dean of Graduate Studies, and Associate Vice President for Research). Dr. Gonzalez has considerable experience in collaborating with community partners including healthcare providers.