Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Part-time in MS in Counseling at CSUF Garden Grove Center

Q. How is the Garden Grove program different from the on-campus program?

A. There are 4 differences:

1. All students in the Garden Grove program progress through the curriculum at the same pace, two courses per semester. The on-campus program offers more flexibility in scheduling courses; students can take two to four courses, depending on their life and work needs.

2. All courses at the Garden Grove program meet at 7:00 p.m. Students in the on-campus program must take 4:00 p.m. courses.

3. Garden Grove students are guaranteed that they will be able to enroll each semester in the courses they need to take. On-campus students do not have the same guarantee, and may have to adjust their scheduling plans and graduation date when they are not able to get into courses that have reached their maximum enrollment.

4. The Garden Grove program, because it is not state-supported, has somewhat higher tuition. However, the Garden Grove program also has lower student fees, so actual costs are roughly equivalent. Both programs have the same courses, taught by the same instructors. Students in both programs receive the same degree from California State University, Fullerton. Graduates of both programs will have met the educational requirements required by the California Board of Behavioral Science for MFT’s and LPCC’s. Students in both programs have the same library privileges, and Garden Grove students are considered part of the CSUF community. They are welcome to spend time on the main campus, use the library and other facilities, and meet with faculty. Students in both programs will be advised by a full-time faculty member, who will help them with their study plans, and assist them with any other matter relevant to their graduate education with us.

Q. What times do classes meet?

A. In the fall and spring semesters, classes meet from 7:00 p.m. to 9:45 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays. In summer, which runs from the beginning of June through mid August, classes tend to meet from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., plus two additional meetings to be arranged. Class times are designed to meet the unit requirements set by the California State Board of Behavioral Sciences, which oversees LMFT and LPCC programs.

Q. Can students go full-time at the Garden Grove program?

A. No. This program is a part-time program only. It is what is called a “cohort” program, meaning that all students go through the program together, taking the same two classes each semester. Our experience with this program and the on-campus program has taught us that two classes per week are about the most a working student can successfully handle.
Q. Can I start at Garden Grove and transfer to the on-campus program?

A. No. Garden Grove students can only take classes as part of this program.

Q. I’ve heard there is a fieldwork component to the program. Can you tell me more about this?

A. In the midpoint of the program, all students are required to work in a community mental health agency for 1 to 1½ years. This fieldwork experience is called a “practicum” and is similar to the internship all students take after they graduate. In practicum, students will provide counseling to a variety of populations, including children, adults, couples, and families. The Department of Counseling has selected community agencies (“practicum sites”) that will fit with working students’ schedules. Practicum is a 1 to 1½ year commitment, and is equivalent to a part-time job, requiring 15-20 hours per week at the agency. There is no salary or stipend, but it is an essential component of every counselor’s training. Students will also be taking two classes while participating in the practicum component; one of these classes will be a seminar in which students discuss their counseling experiences and show videotapes of their counseling sessions.

Q. How big are the classes?

A. Most classes range from 25-35 students. Classes which require counseling training skills have about 15 students, and the Practicum seminar will have 8-10 students. Class sizes are identical to those in the on-campus program.

Q. If I applied to the on-campus program and was denied, can I apply to the Garden Grove program?

A. Yes. Students who are denied can apply to the Garden Grove program, or, if they wish, apply to the on-campus program the following year.

Q. When is the next application period?

A. Please contact applycounseling@fullerton.edu for more information regarding the next application period for MS Counseling at Garden Grove.

Q. Where can I go for assistance with the application process?

A. Please contact our Prospective Student Advisor. She will be delighted to meet with you and answer any questions. You can email her at applycounseling@fullerton.edu or phone her at 657-278-3042.