

CBB

COMMUNITY-BASED BLOCK PROGRAM

MULTICULTURAL COUNSELING AND SOCIAL JUSTICE EDUCATION

30-UNIT Master of Arts in Education with a Concentration in Counseling

Department of Counseling and School Psychology—College of Education
San Diego State University

Southern California has become one of the most diverse, multicultural/multilingual areas in the United States. This development has occurred rather rapidly and consequently schools, colleges, business, industry and government are being challenged to evolve new patterns more consistent with the world views of a multiethnic people and/or people with different life orientations. The Community-Based Block (CBB) program, which has been in existence for 36 years, is a pioneer in the training of counselors that are multiculturally competent.

WHAT IS THE COMMUNITY-BASED BLOCK PROGRAM?

The Community-Based Block program seeks to develop the counseling skills of relationship building, process and therapeutic intervention; the academic skills of critical thinking, systematic inquiry, program evaluation and effective written and oral communication; and the personal growth experiences necessary to enable graduates to use their skills for the benefit of clients. The CBB program also seeks to adapt counseling skills to the needs of different populations so as to train truly competent multicultural counselors. The responsibility students assume for their own education helps them develop the proficiencies they will need to become effective change agents in schools, colleges and/or social service agencies.

The program is called “community-based” because it has always been held off campus, in the heart of two of San Diego's multiethnic neighborhoods and because it creates a learning community in which a team of faculty and a carefully selected group of students “partner” in the learning process, each cohort of students helping to structure its learning experience. It is a “block” program because all classes are required of all students, who stay together as a group for the entire year.

DEGREE OPTIONS: 30-UNIT MASTERS DEGREE or ADVANCED Graduate-Professional Training

CBB is a year-long intensive counselor preparation program. The two-semester block program meets all of the requirements for the **30-unit** MASTER OF ARTS IN EDUCATION with a concentration in Counseling. If the degree you are seeking is the 30 unit M.A. in Education with a Concentration in Counseling and if the Community-Based Block is the only program for which you are applying, then the Community-Based Block application portfolio is the **ONLY** department application you need to complete; however you **MUST** apply to San Diego State University at the same time as applying to the Community-Based Block Program.

You also have the option to concurrently seek one or more of the advanced graduate-professional preparation programs. If you choose this option, then separate applications are required for the Community-Based Block and each of the programs below for which you want to be considered. These include:

M.S. in Counseling with a Specialization in School Counseling, a two-year full-time program.

M.S. in Counseling with a Specialization in Marriage and Family Therapy, a three-year program.

Ed.S. in School Psychology, a four-year full-time program.

Some, but not all, of your CBB courses will apply toward the requirements for these advanced degree-professional programs.

Please call the Department of Counseling and School Psychology for information and applications for these other programs at (619) 594-6109.

APPLICANT CHARACTERISTICS:

The CBB program seeks applicants who have several significant characteristics:

1. Demonstrated interest in serving communities that tend to be underserved by the education and mental health professions.
2. Ability and willingness to take responsibility for their own learning.
3. Commitment to work on their own personal issues that could interfere in their work with clients, both in the program and outside the program by seeking counseling from a trained therapist.
4. Availability and willingness to commit to the weekly time requirements of the program: over 20 hours in the classroom, 10 hours of fieldwork and sufficient time to study and engage in academic projects.
5. Interest in taking classes off-campus in an ethnically diverse neighborhood.
6. Interest in becoming change agents.
7. Commitment to participating in a group in which many decisions are made by consensus and which can, therefore, be frustrating.
8. Oral and written communication skills at a graduate level.
9. Interest in working with real clients who may have serious personal issues.
10. Willingness to contribute to the learning of others.

CBB is a very intense program emotionally, physically and academically. It is also time and labor intensive. The program is designed to foster intra-psychic development for each student. This growth is triggered by the emphasis placed on self-awareness and personal growth. It is also the result of the mental and emotional impact of the extremely sensitive subject matter (i.e. racism, sexism, homophobia, class bias and various other oppressions) with which CBB deals. Students often find themselves questioning their fundamental values and perspectives, which is a very uncomfortable, challenging process.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR ADMISSION?

For specific instructions about applying to the Community-Based Block Program, please see the document titled, INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICATION TO THE COMMUNITY-BASED BLOCK CROSS-CULTURAL COUNSELING PROGRAM.

AS A FULL-TIME STUDENT, CAN I WORK PART-TIME?

Maybe. Some students in CBB do work part-time, even though there is a rigid requirement of 22 hours of class time weekly. In addition to class time, you are expected to put in at least 10 hours a week in an approved field placement. There are also academic projects and comprehensive examinations to complete and, of course, study time to consider. Many CBBers are able to find part-time hourly employment in a position that is also acceptable as an appropriate field placement.

IS THERE FINANCIAL AID AVAILABLE?

Yes. Please call the Financial Aid Office for specific information at (619) 594-6323. If admitted to CBB or any of the other programs offered through the Department of Counseling and School Psychology, you will have the opportunity to apply to receive a scholarship offered only to the incoming students in this department.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact Dr. María Nieto Senour, Program Director, at (619) 594-7729 or e-mail: cbbgradasst@gmail.com
Also, additional information may be obtained from the Department of Counseling and School Psychology's web site at <http://edweb.sdsu.edu/csp>.

One of the best ways to get further information about the CBB program is to spend a day visiting the current program while in session. By talking with other students and by seeing the program in action yourself, you will be able to get a better sense of whether CBB is for you. Please call Dr. Nieto Senour's office to set up an appointment.