Counseling and Related Careers: Graduate Programs and Other Issues

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The views expressed in this paper are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Human Development Department at CSU San Marcos. They are meant to be helpful and informative to individuals who are considering graduate programs in counseling, clinical psychology, school psychology, social work, or related fields. Your inquiries are welcome.

The following information is on marriage and family therapy (MFT), master of social work (MSW), psychiatric nursing, licensed professional clinical counselor (LPCC), clinical psychology, psychiatry, alcohol and drug counseling, school counseling, school psychology, rehabilitation counseling, college and career counseling, applied behavior analysis, genetic counseling, human resources, and related careers. The graduate and other programs listed in this paper are located in the Southern California region (see p. 3), as well as some programs located elsewhere. Information on accreditation, certification, credentialing, and licensure applies to California. CSU refers to the California State University system. UC refers to the University of California system. **Please note:** The author’s personal opinions are shown within brackets as [Commentary:].

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WASC Accreditation

The Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accredits academic institutions in California, Hawaii, Guam, and the Pacific Basin, and is one of six regional accreditation agencies in the U.S. Please note: These six regional agencies are listed below. The Web site for WASC accredited senior colleges and universities is: <www.wascsenior.org/directory/institutions>.

Regional Accreditation Agencies

There are six regional accreditation agencies that accredit academic institutions in the U.S.; these organizations (agencies) have equivalent status to one another. They accredit institutions but not the specific academic programs at these institutions. In addition to the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (see above), the following are the other regional accreditation agencies: Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, New England Association of Schools and Colleges, North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Summaries of Programs Listed

For purposes of this paper, the Southern California region covers the counties of Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Barbara, and Ventura.

MFT Programs: All the WASC and other regional accredited (see above) institutions with marriage and family therapy master’s degree or doctoral degree programs (see p. 6 for use of the terms: MFT degree or MFT program) in Southern California are listed on pp. 7-8. All the COAMFTE (see p. 9) accredited MFT master’s and doctoral programs in California are listed on p. 9. The only MFT programs in California with AATA (see p. 27) approved specialized MFT degrees in art therapy are listed on p. 28. The only MFT program in California with a NADT (see p. 28) approved specialized MFT degree in drama therapy is listed on pp. 28-29. The only completely online MFT program on the accredited schools BBS list (see p. 6) is listed on p. 6.

MSW/Social Work Programs: All the CSWE (see p. 14) fully accredited bachelor’s in social work and master’s in social work (MSW) programs in Southern California are listed on pp. 11-12. All the MSW/dual degree programs in Southern California are listed on p. 13. All the MSW
programs in Southern California offering PPS (see also pp. 23-24) credentialing are listed on pp. 25-26. **All** the doctoral social work programs in California are listed on p. 11. CSWE fully accredited social work programs with online formats that include availability to California residents are listed on pp. 12-13.

**Clinical Counseling Programs:** Clinical counseling graduate programs (for LPCC licensure; see p. 16) are emerging in California. Please see the information on pp. 16-17 regarding these programs.

**Clinical Psychology Programs:** **All** the APA accredited (see p. 19) clinical psychology doctoral programs in Southern California are listed on p. 20.

**Psychiatry Residency Training Programs:** **All** the California medical schools that are *recognized* by the Medical Board of California (MBC; see p. 21) and are also accredited by the national Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (see p. 21) to offer residency training programs in psychiatry are listed on p. 21.

**Alcohol and Drug Counseling Certificate/Degree Programs:** Listed on pp. 21-22 are five alcohol/drug studies academic programs each in Los Angeles and San Diego counties, two programs each in Orange and Riverside counties, and one program each in Imperial, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties. This is a partial listing of available programs.

**School Counseling Programs:** **All** the WASC accredited (see p. 3) institutions with school counseling programs in Southern California are listed on p. 22-23. There are no other regional accredited (see p. 3) institutions with school counseling programs in Southern California.

**School Psychology Programs:** **All** the WASC accredited (see p. 3) institutions with school psychology programs in Southern California are listed on p. 24. There are no other regional accredited (see p. 3) institutions with school psychology programs in Southern California.

**Rehabilitation Counseling Programs:** **All** the CORE (see p. 26) accredited rehabilitation counseling programs in Southern California are listed on p. 26.

**College and Career Counseling Programs:** WASC accredited (see p. 3) universities with specialized college or career counseling programs in Southern California are listed on pp. 26-27. One online format college advising program at a regional accredited (see p. 3) institution is listed on p. 26.

**Music Therapy Programs:** The only AMTA (see p. 27) approved programs in music therapy in California are listed on p. 28.

**Therapeutic Recreation Programs:** The only COAPRT (see p. 27) accredited programs in therapeutic recreation in California are listed on p. 28.
Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Programs: WASC accredited (see p. 3) universities in Southern California that have BACB (see p. 29) approved ABA training are listed on p. 29.

Genetic Counseling Programs: All the ABGC (see p. 29) accredited genetic counseling graduate programs in California are listed on p. 30.

MFT Licensure

The California Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) specifies the following academic degree requirement for MFT (Marriage and Family Therapist) licensure: An applicant for licensure must have (a) a master’s or doctoral degree in marriage, family, and child counseling or marital and family therapy, or (b) a master’s or doctoral degree in psychology, clinical psychology, counseling psychology, or counseling if the degree program has an emphasis in marriage, family, and child counseling or marriage and family therapy. The MFT degree (see p. 6) must be from: (1) a WASC accredited or other regionally accredited (see p. 3) institution, or (2) a BPPE approved (see p. 6) institution, or (3) a COAMFTE accredited (see p. 9) program. Please note: Most MFT programs in California are at the master’s degree level. Most MFT graduates and licensed MFTs in California do not have doctoral degrees. Effective July 1, 1999, the BBS replaced the title of licensed Marriage, Family and Child Counselor (MFCC) with the title of licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT). The California BBS Web site is: <www.bbs.ca.gov>. [Commentary: In my opinion, the term MFCC was changed to MFT partly owing to ongoing legal and political turf issues involving licensed MFTs, LCSWs, LPCs, licensed psychologists, and psychiatrists.]

A MFT degree (see above) and supervised experience are required for MFT licensure. During a MFT graduate program, students complete supervised graduate practicum (internship) hours; this internship varies from around 200 to 700 total hours for the MFT master’s degree programs listed in this paper, depending on the MFT program. A maximum of 1,300 graduate internship hours can count toward the minimum 3,000 total supervised hours (minimum of 104 weeks) required by the California BBS licensing board for MFT licensure. A minimum of 1,700 supervised hours must be done after completion of the MFT degree. The BBS term for an individual with a MFT degree who is working on postgraduate licensure hours is MFT Intern; by applying for this status with the BBS within 90 days of earning the MFT degree, an applicant can begin accruing MFT Intern status licensure hours immediately after MFT graduation. After the licensure hours are completed, there are two written MFT licensure examinations by the BBS. Please note: The BBS Web site lists 33,015 licensed MFTs and 15,678 MFT Interns as of January 1, 2013.

Several years ago, the BBS eliminated a MFT licensure oral examination after years of debate on this issue. The BBS acknowledged that the California state budget deficits of the time contributed greatly to the elimination of an oral examination, which used to follow successful completion of a single written examination. Licensing laws and statutes are subject to change by the California Legislature. Licensing regulations are subject to change by the state licensing
boards, such as the California BBS (see p. 5) and the California Board of Psychology (BOP; see p. 19). [Commentary: It is advisable for individuals interested in licensure as a MFT, LPCC, LCSW, psychologist, or educational psychologist, all as covered in this paper, to review periodically the basic licensure requirements and to become familiar with relevant accreditation issues, also as covered in this paper.]

MFT Programs

California AB 1897 legislation effective January 1, 2009 accepts institutions accredited by the WASC or any of the other regional accreditation agencies (see p. 3), and having MFT degree programs, as accredited for BBS MFT licensure purposes; these institutions are listed on the BBS Web site (see p. 5) as Accredited Schools with MFT Degree Programs. Please note: The accredited institutions on the BBS listing of MFT programs use various titles for their degrees in this field, e.g., clinical psychology with an emphasis in marriage and family therapy, community counseling, counseling psychology, counseling psychology with an emphasis in marriage and family therapy, couple and family therapy, marriage and family therapy, etc., depending on the institution. In referring to these degrees and programs, the BBS uses the terms: MFT degree, MFT program, or MFT degree program; this paper uses these same terms. Please note: All the MFT programs listed in this paper are at WASC or other regionally accredited institutions.

California AB 48 legislation effective January 1, 2010 created the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (BPPE), replacing the former Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education (BPPVE). BPPE only approved institutions with MFT degree programs are listed as Approved Schools with MFT Degree Programs on the BBS Web site; these institutions lack WASC or other regional accreditation and have BPPE only approval; they are not listed in this paper (see also pp. 19 and 36). [Commentary: In my opinion, it is not advisable for individuals seeking MFT licensure to attend a MFT degree program at an institution having BPPE only approval; see also p. 36.]

In the Southern California region (see p. 3), there are five institutions accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (see p. 3) that have MFT degree programs: Antioch University has five campuses nationwide; Bethel Seminary is part of Bethel University (St. Paul, Minnesota); *Northcentral University (NCU; Prescott Valley, Arizona; see below); the University of Phoenix has numerous locations nationwide; and Webster University (home campus in Webster Groves, Missouri) has numerous locations nationwide and in other countries. *Please note: As of January 20, 2013, NCU (see above) has the only completely online, asynchronous format MFT master’s degree program on the accredited schools BBS list (see above). NCU also has an online MFT doctoral degree program; these NCU online MFT programs do not require any in person campus class attendance; internships are arranged in a student’s area of residence.

In San Diego County, these are all the MFT master’s degree programs at WASC accredited (see
p. 3) universities: Alliant International University (AIU)/CSPP (see below; San Diego), Argosy University (San Diego), Azusa Pacific University (APU; San Diego), Brandman University (see below; San Diego), National University (Carlsbad and San Diego), San Diego State University (SDSU), and the University of San Diego (USD). AIU/CSPP also offers a MFT doctoral degree. The AIU/CSPP, SDSU, and USD programs are also COAMFTE accredited (see p. 9). APU includes a Christian view.

Also in San Diego County, these North Central Association accredited institutions (see p. 6) have MFT master’s degree programs: Bethel Seminary (Bethel; San Diego), and the University of Phoenix (San Diego and San Marcos). Bethel is also COAMFTE accredited (see p. 9). Bethel includes a Christian view.

Please note: Argosy University has various locations nationally. Azusa Pacific University (main campus in Azusa) has various locations in Southern California. Brandman University, with numerous locations in California and Washington, is part of the Chapman University (Orange, CA) System. National University has numerous locations in California and one in Henderson, Nevada.

Alliant International University (AIU) formed on July 1, 2001 when the former Alliant University, which began in 1969 as the California School of Professional Psychology (CSPP), joined with the former United States International University. AIU has various locations in California and in other countries. AIU is known as AIU/CSPP (see above) for its clinical psychology, clinical psychopharmacology, marital and family therapy, and other programs.

[Commentary: Based on available information, the top three (equal ranking) San Diego area MFT master’s degree programs are: AIU/CSPP, SDSU, and USD.]

In Imperial County, the University of Phoenix (North Central Association accreditation; see p. 6) has a MFT master’s degree program in Imperial.

In Orange County, these are all the MFT master’s degree programs at WASC accredited (see p. 3) universities: Alliant International University (AIU/CSPP; see above; Irvine), Argosy University (Orange), Azusa Pacific University (APU; Orange), Brandman University (see above; Irvine), Chapman University (Chapman; Orange), CSU Fullerton (Fullerton and Garden Grove), Hope International University (Hope; Fullerton), National University (Costa Mesa), Pepperdine University (Irvine), *The Chicago School of Professional Psychology (TCS; see below; Irvine), and Vanguard University of Southern California (VU; Costa Mesa). APU, Hope, and VU include a Christian view. AIU/CSPP, Chapman, and Hope are also COAMFTE accredited (see p. 9). AIU/CSPP also offers a MFT doctoral degree. *Please note: The former California Graduate Institute (Irvine and Westwood) on November 12, 2008 became part of TCS and its parent company, TCS Education System. In 2011 TCS in Irvine, Los Angeles, and Westwood attained WASC (see p. 3) accreditation. TCS at its home campus in Chicago, Illinois has North Central Association accreditation (see p. 3).
Also in Orange County, Webster University (Irvine; North Central Association accredited [see p. 6]) in Irvine has a MFT master’s degree program.

In Riverside County, these are all the MFT master’s degree programs at WASC accredited (see p. 3) universities: Brandman University (see above) in Moreno Valley and Palm Desert, and California Baptist University (CBU) in Riverside. CBU includes a Christian view.

In San Bernardino County, these are all the MFT master’s degree programs at WASC accredited (see p. 3) universities: Argosy University (San Bernardino), (Brandman University (see p. 7) in Ontario and Victorville, CSU San Bernardino, and Loma Linda University (LLU). LLU also offers a MFT doctoral degree. LLU is also COAMFTE accredited (see p. 9). LLU includes a Christian view.

In Los Angeles County, these are all the MFT master’s degree programs at WASC accredited (see p. 3) institutions: Alliant International University (AIU/CSPP; see p. 7; Alhambra), Argosy University (Los Angeles), Azusa Pacific University (APU; Azusa), Brandman University (see p. 7; Palmdale and Santa Clarita), Cal Poly Pomona (CS Polytechnic U, Pomona), CSU Dominguez Hills (Carson), CSU Long Beach, CSU Los Angeles, CSU Northridge, Fuller Theological Seminary (Fuller; Pasadena), Loyola Marymount University (Los Angeles), Mount St. Mary’s College (Los Angeles), National University (Los Angeles and Sherman Oaks), *Pacific Oaks College (Pasadena), Pepperdine University (Encino, Malibu main campus, and West Los Angeles), Phillips Graduate Institute (Encino), The Chicago School of Professional Psychology (TCS; see p. 7; Los Angeles and Westwood), University of La Verne, University of Southern California (Los Angeles), and the University of the West (Rosemead). AIU/CSPP is also COAMFTE accredited (see p. 9). Fuller and TCS also offer MFT doctoral degrees. APU and Fuller include a Christian view. *Please note: Pacific Oaks College on June 2, 2010 became an affiliate of the TCS Education System (see p. 7).

Also in Los Angeles County, these North Central Association accredited (see p. 6) institutions have MFT master’s degree programs: Antioch University Los Angeles (Culver City), and the University of Phoenix (Gardena, Pasadena, and Woodland Hills).

In Ventura County, California Lutheran University (WASC accredited; see p. 3) has a MFT master’s degree program (Oxnard and Thousand Oaks main campus).

In Santa Barbara County, Pacifica Graduate Institute (WASC accredited; see p. 3) in Carpinteria has a MFT master’s degree program.

Also in Santa Barbara County, Antioch University Santa Barbara (North Central Association accredited; see p. 6) has a MFT master’s degree program.

MFT master’s degree full-time programs in California are typically two to three years; some MFT programs also have part-time options. As admissions prerequisites, MFT programs
may require courses such as abnormal psychology, behavioral sciences research methods and/or statistics, counseling or personality theories, human or life span development or developmental psychology, and physiological psychology, depending on the specific MFT program. Some MFT programs also expect applicants to have relevant paid or unpaid experience. Please note: Most MFT students, MFT graduates, and licensed MFTs are women. There is an ongoing need for more men as well as for greater ethnic diversity in the MFT profession.

*In 2009, California legislation called SB 33 MFT Educational Requirements was approved. This legislation increased the California BBS (see p. 5) MFT academic program unit requirement from a minimum of 48 semester (72 quarter) units to a minimum of 60 semester (90 quarter) units, and requires principles of the (California) Mental Health Services Act (see p. 10) to be part of the MFT curriculum, i.e., to have more content geared toward “public practice settings” (see March 10, 2008 BBS update below). Please note: Some MFT master’s programs, such as (see pp. 7-8) AIU, APU, CSUF, CSULB, CSUN, SDSU, USC, and VU had already required 60 semester units. The SB 33 legislation was related to work by the California BBS MFT Education Committee, which first met in July 2006. A BBS Web site (see p. 5) update on March 10, 2008 included a finding that MFT programs typically emphasize [traditional] “private practice competencies … [while] …40-50% of MFTs are not working in a private practice setting.”

*Please note: The unit and content requirement change became effective on August 1, 2012, for students not previously enrolled in their respective MFT programs.

The Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE), established by the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT), accredits MFT master’s, doctoral, and postgraduate programs in the United States and Canada. Please note: COAMFTE accreditation is a separate entity from WASC accreditation or other regional accreditation (see p. 3). As of January 20, 2103, these are all the COAMFTE accredited MFT programs in California: Alliant International University/CSPP (see p. 7; MFT master’s degrees at San Diego, Irvine, Los Angeles (Alhambra), and Sacramento, and MFT doctoral degrees at San Diego, Irvine, and Sacramento); Bethel Seminary (MFT master’s degree, San Diego); Chapman University (MFT master’s degree, Orange); Hope International University (MFT master’s degree, Fullerton); Loma Linda University (MFT master’s and MFT doctoral degrees); San Diego State University (MFT master’s degree); and the University of San Diego (MFT master’s degree). The AAMFT Web site is: <www.aamft.org>; use the link for “MFT Training Program Directory” to review the complete list of COAMFTE accredited programs in the U.S. and Canada. COAMFTE accreditation also qualifies MFT programs for eligibility for certain federal grants.

Please note: Most MFT programs in California and elsewhere are not COAMFTE accredited. All the COAMFTE accredited MFT programs listed above are at WASC accredited or other regionally accredited (see p. 3) institutions. COAMFTE accreditation standards require AAMFT (see above) approved (or the equivalent) intern supervisors, and 500 direct client contact hours plus at least 100 supervision hours (600 hours total) for COAMFTE master’s degree programs; these hours double for COAMFTE doctoral level programs; some MFT doctoral degree programs (such as AIU/CSPP; see above) require 1,500 graduate practicum (internship) hours.
[Commentary: Based on available information, graduating from a COAMFTE accredited MFT program can be advantageous for MFT licensure purposes in most states outside of California.]

**LCSW Licensure**

Licensure for MSWs in California is called Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) status. The minimum 3,200 supervised hours (minimum of 104 weeks) required for this licensure begin to count only after an individual earns a master’s in social work (MSW or equivalent degree) from a Council on Social Work Education (CSWE; see p.14) accredited program, and also registers with the California BBS as an Associate Clinical Social Worker (ASW), the BBS term for an individual with a MSW degree who is working on licensure hours. A MSW or equivalent degree from a CSWE accredited program (see also p. 14) and the ASW status supervised hours are required to apply for LCSW licensure; there are two LCSW written examinations (see below). MSW graduates with a DSW (doctor of social work), Ph.D. in social work, or other doctoral degrees often go into university teaching, administrative positions, or research. Most MSW graduates and LCSWs in California do not have doctoral degrees. Please note: The BBS Web site (see p. 5) lists 19,674 LCSWs and 10,514 ASWs as of January 1, 2013. For the same reasons as the BBS decision for MFT licensure (see p. 5), the California Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) several years ago eliminated an oral examination for LCSW licensure, which used to follow successful completion of a single written examination. **Please note:** Recent legislation affects the LCSW examination process as follows: California legislation called AB 2167 Clinical Social Workers: Examination Requirements was approved on September 30, 2010. Consequently, effective January 1, 2014, the new examinations for LCSW licensure will be: (1) the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Clinical Level [national] Exam administered by the ASWB, and (2) a new state examination administered by the California BBS, if by December 1, 2013 the BBS accepts the ASWB Exam as meeting BBS LCSW licensure standards. [Commentary: Aspiring LCSWs should review the BBS Web site periodically as licensing statutes and regulations change over time (see pp. 5-6).]

Please note: As editorialized (“It Begins”) in the *NASW California News* (Vol. 34, No. 9, June 2008, p. 2), the SB 33 legislation (see p. 9; then called SB 1218) [will move] “MFT education closer to social work education…..” The same article stated “the Mental Health Services Act [resulting from the passage of Proposition 63 in November 2004 in California] embodies a recovery or social rehabilitation system of practice not traditional psychotherapy.” As noted (“LCSW and MSW Education Begins Review at BBS”) in the same *NASW California News* edition (p. 8), the BBS held “its inaugural LCSW Education Committee meeting in May [2008]. The purpose of this committee is to explore what makes up the educational foundation for the LCSW counting [sic] the MSW degree.” There are periodic LCSW Committee meetings.

**MSW/Social Work Programs**
Please note: All California based social work programs are at WASC accredited universities (see p. 3). All the social work bachelor’s and master’s degree programs listed on pp. 11-14 are fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE; see p. 14). Some social work, also called social welfare, programs offer both the Master of Social Work (MSW) and the Bachelor of Social Work (the BASW and BSW are equivalent degrees). Some programs offer either the MSW or the BSW. Degrees such as the Master of Science in Social Work (MSSW) are equivalent to the MSW; the MSW is the prevalent master’s degree in this field. The California State University (CSU) system has most of the BASW/BSW and MSW programs based in California. Please note: UC Berkeley, UC Los Angeles (UCLA), and the University of Southern California (USC) offer MSW and doctoral programs in social work; these three universities have nationally highly ranked social work programs. [Commentary: Some sources contend that national rankings favor programs that offer doctoral programs in social work.]

MSW graduate students in California typically have 16 supervised field experience (internship) hours weekly their first internship year and 16, 20, or 24 hours weekly their second internship year, depending on the MSW program, for around 1,000 to 1,200 total graduate internship hours.

In San Diego County, San Diego State University (SDSU) has MSW and BASW programs. Point Loma Nazarene University (San Diego) offers a bachelor’s in social work with a Christian view. USC (see above) began a MSW program in Rancho Bernardo (San Diego) in fall 2009.

In Imperial County, SDSU (see above) has a MSW program in Calexico.

In Orange County, CSU Fullerton (CSUF) has a MSW program that began in fall 2007. USC (see above) has a MSW program in Irvine. Please note: The current CSUF part-time program in Irvine will relocate to Garden Grove in fall 2013 and expand to self-paced two, three, and four year program options.

In Riverside County, La Sierra University (Riverside) has a BSW program.

In San Bernardino County, CSU San Bernardino has MSW and BASW programs. Loma Linda University (LLU) has a MSW program. LLU includes a Christian view.

In Los Angeles County, these are all the MSW programs: Azusa Pacific University (APU; Azusa); CSU Dominguez Hills (Carson), CSU Long Beach (CSULB), CSU Los Angeles (CSULA), CSU Northridge (also in City of Industry and Santa Clarita), UCLA (see above), and USC (see above: Los Angeles, Skirball/West Los Angeles, and City Center/Los Angeles). Please note: APU, CSULA, and CSULB also offer bachelor’s degree in social work programs, as does Whittier College (Whittier). UCLA and USC also offer Ph.D. programs in social work. APU includes a Christian view. Please note: San Diego County residents in the CSULB main campus MSW program can fulfill their internships in San Diego County.

In Ventura County, CSULB (see above) has a MSW distance education program at host campus
Ventura College (Ventura). Residents in the counties of Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and Los Angeles in this CSULB program can fulfill their internships locally. This is a three-year, year round part-time MSW program, with Saturday classes only, using both a classroom interactive television (ITV) format and also in person classroom instruction. Please note: This is not an online format program. CSULB also has this same program at host campus Sonoma State University; residents of that region can fulfill their internships locally.

**Please note:** There are various CSWE (see p. 14) accredited online format social work programs that include availability to California residents. Please also see a paper called *Information on MSW/Social Work Programs* via the CSU San Marcos Human Development Web site (see p. 13). These online programs are as follows:

These two CSWE (see p. 14) fully accredited, three-year part-time MSW programs have online formats; internships are arranged in a student’s area of residence: The University of North Dakota (UND) in Grand Forks is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (see p. 3), and has a MSW program using online virtual classrooms; the University of Washington (UW) in Seattle is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (see p. 3), and has a MSW program including online, asynchronous format courses. The UW has a highly nationally ranked social work program. The UND and UW programs require some in person campus class attendance: The UND requires in person campus class attendance once per year, for the first two years, for around four to five days each time; the UND also has a two-year part-time advanced standing (see also p. 14), online format program requiring some campus class attendance. The UW requires in person campus class attendance for four weekends (Fridays and Saturdays) during each 11 to 12 week term.

The University of New England (UNE) in Portland, Maine is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (see p. 3), and has CSWE (see p. 14) fully accredited, asynchronous format online MSW programs: The traditional track is a four year part-time program for applicants with a bachelor’s degree other than social work; the advanced standing (see also p. 14) track is a two year part-time program for applicants with a bachelor’s degree in social work from a CSWE accredited program. The UNE online MSW programs do not require any in person campus class attendance. Internships are arranged in a student’s area of residence.

The University of Southern California (USC, Los Angeles; WASC accredited, see p. 3) as of October 2010 has CSWE (see p. 14) fully accredited online MSW programs, using both synchronous and asynchronous formats. Two year full-time and three year part-time programs are offered; these USC online programs do not require any in person campus class attendance. Internships are arranged in a student’s area of residence.

Texas State University-San Marcos (TSU-SM) in San Marcos, Texas is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (see p. 3) and has CSWE (see p. 14) fully accredited, online format, part-time MSW programs in the Administrative Leadership track only; these TSU-SM online programs do not require any in person campus class attendance.
Internships are arranged in a student’s area of residence.

Humboldt State University (HSU, Arcata, CA; WASC accredited, see p. 3) in spring 2012 began a CSWE (see p. 14) fully accredited online MSW program, using both synchronous and asynchronous formats. This is a 3.5 year part-time program. This program requires one to two times per year campus visits for around 3 to 5 days total per year. An advanced standing (see p. 14 also) online MSW two year part-time program begins in 2013 for applicants with a bachelor’s degree in social work from a CSWE accredited program. HSU began a CSWE fully accredited online bachelor’s degree in social work (BASW) in fall 2011 for applicants who have completed or are completing all lower division prerequisites in the HSU social work undergraduate major; this program uses both synchronous and asynchronous formats, and requires one to two campus visits per year for around 3 to 5 days total per year; this bachelor’s degree program (upper division undergraduate level) has two year and three year options. Internships for these HSU online programs are arranged in a student’s area of residence.

Boston University (BU) in Boston, Massachusetts is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, (see p. 3); and Edinboro University in Edinboro, Pennsylvania is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (see p. 3). BU and Edinboro both offer online format MSW programs with availability to California residents.

Please note: There are an increasing number of CSWE fully accredited online format MSW programs, though not all are available to California residents.

[Commentary: Online MSW programs in some cases make the MSW degree attainable for students who otherwise might be unable to attend a program. There are mixed reviews on the viability of online social work education, especially in asynchronous formats.]

Please note: The following MSW programs in Southern California have dual degree options:

In Los Angeles County, UCLA (see p. 11) has a Master of Public Health (MPH)/MSW, MPP (Master of Policy Studies)/ MSW, MA in Asian-American Studies/MSW, and Juris Doctor (J.D.) [UCLA School of Law, ABA (American Bar Association) approved]/MSW. USC (see p. 11; Los Angeles main campus) has a MSW/Master of Business Administration (MBA), MSW/M.S. in Gerontology, MSW/M.A. in Jewish Nonprofit Management in conjunction with the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (WASC accredited, in Los Angeles), MSW/J.D. (USC Gould School of Law, ABA approved), MSW/Master of Planning, MSW/Master of Public Administration (MPA), and MSW/Ph.D. in Social Work.

In San Bernardino County, Loma Linda University has a MSW/M.S. in Criminal Justice, MSW/M.S. in Gerontology, and MSW/Ph.D. in Social Policy & Social Research.

In San Diego, San Diego State University has a MSW/MPH, and MSW/J.D. in conjunction with the California Western School of Law, an ABA approved free standing law school in San Diego.
Full-time MSW programs are two years (except for advanced standing options; see below). MSW programs are typically 60 semester units. Three-year and/or four-year part-time options are often available. As an admissions prerequisite, MSW programs often require an elementary level course in statistics, and sometimes other specific courses.

Also for admissions purposes, MSW programs typically require applicants to have significant relevant paid or unpaid experience in human services or related settings. [Commentary: I suggest that a potential applicant for a MSW program acquire at least 500 hours of relevant experience, comparable to the field experience (internship) hours (around 450 to 500 hours) done in the senior year in a BASW/BSW program.]

[Commentary: In my opinion, abnormal psychology, counseling or personality theories, and human development or human services courses are also good preparation for MSW programs.]

Please note: Most MSW students, MSW graduates, and LCSWs are women. There is an ongoing need for more men as well as for greater ethnic diversity in the social work profession.

Please note: Some MSW programs have advanced standing programs for applicants with a BASW/BSW from a CSWE accredited program. Advanced standing MSW programs typically are one year full-time. In the Southern California region (see p. 3), APU, CSULB, SDSU, and USC (see pp. 11) all have advanced standing MSW programs. The UND and UNE both have online advanced standing two year part-time MSW programs (see p. 12).

Bachelor’s and master’s, but not doctoral, social work programs are accredited nationally by the Commission on Accreditation of the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). CSWE accreditation helps assure the integrity of social work programs. All the CSWE fully accredited and advanced to candidacy bachelor’s and master’s degree programs in the nation are listed on the CSWE Web site: <www.cswe.org>. New bachelor’s and master’s in social work programs apply for CSWE candidacy status. CSWE fully accredited and advanced to candidacy MSW programs in California are listed on the California BBS Web site (see p. 5). Please note: Graduates from CSWE advanced to candidacy MSW programs are eligible to register as ASWs (see p. 10) to qualify for the California BBS LCSW licensure exams, and are eligible for the licensure exams once supervised hours are completed and after the Commission on Accreditation of the CSWE grants full accreditation status to the MSW program (see the BBS Web site).

MFT vs. MSW vs. LPCC Career Considerations

Of the total number of LCSWs (202,924) in the U.S., 9% (18,342) are licensed in California (source: American Counseling Association (ACA), 2011 Statistics; the ACA Web site is <www.counseling.org>). LCSWs (and equivalent licensure in other states) comprise the largest category of licensed mental health professionals in the U.S., according to the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). The NASW, formed in 1955, lobbies with considerable
success on behalf of the social work profession. The NASW has an active California chapter. The NASW Web site is: <www.naswdc.org>. LCSWs, licensed psychologists, psychiatrists, and psychiatric nurse specialists qualify as Medicare providers for mental health services. Licensed MFTs and LPCs (called LPCCs in California; see p. 16) do not qualify as Medicare providers; proposed federal legislation to include licensed MFTs and LPCs failed in 2009. Hospital settings often have hiring preferences for MSWs or LCSWs over MFTs, licensed MFTs, or LPCs. Private and public agencies in adoption services, forensic services, mental health, residential care, and social services, and public agencies in child welfare services, corrections, and veterans services sometimes have hiring preferences for MSWs over MFTs, clinical counseling (such as LPC/LPCC eligible degrees), or other master’s level graduates; licensure is also required for employment in some of these positions. There may be employment advantages for MSWs and LCSWs compared to employment for MFTs, licensed MFTs, or LPCs in California and many other states. For an individual interested in a career as a licensed clinician, also referred to as a therapist or counselor, at the master’s degree level, until the LPCC profession (see pp. 16-17) evolves further in California, the choice in California has usually been the MFT degree or the MSW degree. MFT and MSW curricula are markedly different in scope and purpose. The MFT curriculum typically has been focused on clinical training. Therefore, if an individual is certain that being a clinician is a long term career commitment, then a MFT program can offer didactic advantages during graduate training. A dilemma is that becoming a licensed therapist or counselor is both an art and a science, both a calling and a process. There are individuals with genuine intentions to become therapists, only to discover after graduate school or even after licensure as a MFT, LCSW, LPCC, psychologist, etc., that it is not in their best interests or those of their clients to engage in direct clinical practice as therapists. If an individual becomes a MFT or a licensed MFT, there are employment opportunities outside of clinical work, though not always to the extent available to MSWs and LCSWs, perhaps because a social work curriculum typically has a generalist foundation. [Commentary: A MSW graduate may have better opportunities than a MFT graduate for positions in case management, supervision, administration, and other careers in health and human services fields. Ultimately, an individual’s career decisions often reflect various academic, personal, and professional interests. In my opinion, both in California and nationwide, the MSW degree has overall career and employment advantages over the MFT degree. Also in my opinion, LCSWs have some career and employment advantages over LPCs in some states. Outside of California, in my opinion LPC (called LPCC in California) licensure also has career and employment advantages over MFT licensure, and will likely become a marketable career path in California as well in the future.]

Of the total number of licensed MFTs (54,785) in the U.S., 56.7% (31,077) are licensed in California (source: American Counseling Association (ACA), 2011 Statistics, from the ACA Web site: <www.counseling.org>). In most other states, the number of LPCs (see p. 16) and LCSWs far exceeds the number of licensed MFTs (source: ACA, 2011 statistics from the ACA Web site listed above). [Commentary: The number of licensed MFTs in California may exceed the available employment opportunities in some California locales; this may be further impacted by the new Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor category in California (see also pp. 16-17). Proponents of the LPCC legislation contended that LPCC status in California would not
adversely affect the licensed MFT profession. In my opinion, LPCC status will become increasingly significant in California in the coming years. Aspiring licensed MFTs should research the future employment outlook for licensed MFTs in California.

MFT students have more clinical graduate coursework compared to MSW students. MSW students complete more graduate supervised practicum (internship) hours (see p. 11) compared to MFT master’s degree program students (see p. 5).

The California Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) licenses MFTs, MSWs, and the new LPCC category. The BBS Web site (see p. 5) indicates that the licensed MFT, LCSW, and LPCC (typically called LPC, MHC, or similar terms in other states) professions have different scopes of practice. Yet MFTs, LCSWs, and LPCCs in similar practice settings often perform similar services, including those individuals who work in clinical settings. The LCSW is also a preferred license for certain administrative positions, especially in mental health and health care settings, as well as for some direct practice positions, including but not limited to clinical work, especially in government agencies.

Please note: Though the educational psychologist (see pp. 25-26), LCSW, LPCC, MFT, or psychologist (see p. 19) licenses legally qualify individuals for independent clinical practice, not all such licensed clinicians actually work as clinicians. Some work as administrators, case managers, faculty, allied health care staff, etc. It is also common for licensed MFTs, LCSWs, or LPCCs to begin as clinical practitioners, and then later on go into management, teaching, etc. Different academic degrees, training, and licensure can lead to similar professional careers, depending on a clinician’s applied scope of practice. [Commentary: In my opinion, it is maturity, experience, commitment, and lifelong learning that help determine which individuals become the best clinicians, regardless of their specific licensure.]

Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor

Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC) status, also called Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) or similar terms in various states, has existed everywhere in the U.S. except California. There are 120,429 LPCs in the U.S. (source: ACA, 2011 statistics from the ACA Web site listed on pp. 14-15). In California, legislation called SB 788 Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC) was approved on October 11, 2009, specifying that individuals with a master’s or doctoral degree that is counseling or psychotherapy in content, for a minimum of 48 semester (72 quarter) units, and a minimum of 60 semester (90 quarter) units for individuals who began graduate study on or after August 1, 2012, and a minimum of 3,000 hours of postgraduate degree qualifying supervised experience (minimum of two years), can qualify to take the examinations for LPCC licensure in California. This new LPCC category, effective January 1, 2010, is regulated by the California BBS (see p. 5). The BBS Web site (see p. 5) has LPCC updates. The BBS (see p. 5) also regulates Professional Clinical Counselor Interns (PCCI). For information on LPCs in general and LPCCs in California, see this Web site:
Please note: The BBS Web site (see p. 5) lists schools with graduate programs that may qualify toward LPCC licensure; please read the BBS disclaimer about these programs; also, some of these schools are not regionally accredited (please see related comment on p. 36).

Clinical Counseling/LPCC License Eligible Programs

Please note: All the universities listed here (p. 17) are WASC accredited (see p. 3). Loma Linda University, National University (including Carlsbad, Costa Mesa, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Sherman Oaks locations), and the University of San Diego have master’s degrees leading toward LPCC licensure (see pp. 16-17). Other LPCC eligible programs are emerging in California, such as a master’s degree in clinical counseling that began in fall 2011 at AIU/CSPP (San Francisco, see p. 7), a LPCC respecialization certificate in clinical counseling that began in fall 2011 at Azusa Pacific University (Azusa, Murrieta, and Orange locations), and a master’s degree in clinical mental health counseling and a clinical mental health advanced training certificate that began in fall 2012 at the University of Redlands (Redlands main campus).

Please note: Graduate degree or other programs meeting the academic requirements for the new LPCC licensure category in California have various names, e.g., clinical counseling, clinical mental health, clinical mental health counseling, counseling, community counseling, etc., depending on the institution. These LPCC eligible programs are generically referred to in this paper as clinical counseling programs.

Please note: There is a national accreditation agency called the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) that accredits master’s degree programs in clinical mental health counseling (such as LPC/LPCC eligible programs), community counseling, school counseling, career counseling, college counseling, and related fields. Though the California BBS does not require CACREP accreditation for LPCC licensure purposes (see also pp. 16-17), graduating from a CACREP accredited program may be preferred for employment as a LPC/LPCC in some settings, such as the Veterans Administration. [Commentary: In my opinion, individuals interested in LPC/LPCC eligible graduate programs should consider as feasible attending a program that has CACREP accreditation or is at least seeking CACREP accreditation.] The CACREP Web site is: <www.cacrep.org>.

LPCC/School Counseling/MFT Options

As shown in the examples listed above, Loma Linda University has a master’s degree in counseling program that leads toward LPCC licensure; this same program includes the option to meet the requirements for the Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) school counseling credential and school counseling degree (see also pp. 23-24), or to complete the school counseling degree and
PPS credential by themselves. At the University of San Diego, the foundation year coursework for the clinical mental health counseling degree and the school counseling degree is similar, so that individuals might be able essentially to complete concurrently the foundation year coursework toward both these degree programs if admitted to both programs. [Commentary: In my opinion, it could be advantageous for individuals interested in either a LPCC career or a school counseling career to consider graduate programs offering the flexibility to combine both these career tracks. This could enhance employment prospects for such individuals.] As the California BBS fully implements the regulations for applying for the new LPCC licensure category (see also pp. 16-17), individuals interested in either MFT careers or LPCC careers might be able to find graduate programs that offer the flexibility to combine both these career tracks, and also might be able to count supervised experience hours toward eligibility for either or both of the MFT and LPCC licenses. [Commentary: In my opinion, it could be advantageous for individuals interested in either MFT licensure or LPCC licensure to consider graduate programs that might qualify toward both these licensure categories, to the extent allowed by the BBS, to enhance employment prospects for such individuals.]

**Advanced Practice Psychiatric Nursing**

The California Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) has categories called BRN Certified Clinical Nurse Specialist in the Specialty Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing, and BRN Listed Psychiatric Mental Health RN, California Registered Nurse (RN) status, a MSN (Master of Science in Nursing) in psychiatric/mental health nursing or community mental health nursing, and two years supervised clinical experience in psychiatric/mental health counseling services are required to be a Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse in California; this is also called advanced practice psychiatric nursing. The BRN Web site lists all the BRN approved nursing programs in California and has information on psychiatric nursing: <www.rn.ca.gov>. The American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA) also has information; the APNA Web site is: <www.apna.org>. Please note: In fall 2011, CSU San Marcos (WASC accredited, see p. 3) via Extended Learning began a MSN program that includes options in this field.

**Clinical Psychology and Related Careers**

Please note: All the institutions listed on p. 20 are WASC accredited (see p. 3).

Psychologist licensure in California requires a doctoral degree in psychology, educational psychology, or in education with a specialization in counseling psychology or educational psychology from a WASC accredited or other regional accredited (see p. 3) institution. Also, a doctoral degree in psychology from a BPPE (see also pp. 6 and 36) only approved institution that lacks WASC or other regional accreditation may qualify for licensure. [Commentary: In my opinion, it is not advisable for individuals seeking psychology licensure to attend a psychology program at a BPPE only approved institution; see also p. 36.]
In California, psychologist licensure is regulated by the California Board of Psychology (BOP). The BOP Web site is: <www.psychboard.ca.gov>. In addition to the doctoral degree, 3,000 hours (two years) of supervised experience are required, including at least 1,500 postdoctoral hours (one year), followed by two written examinations, one a national examination and the other a state examination, as regulated by the BOP. Some years ago the BOP eliminated an oral examination, which used to follow successful completion of a single written examination, for the same reasons as the California BBS decision for the MFT and LCSW oral examinations (see pp. 5 and 10). [Commentary: Aspiring licensed psychologists should review the BOP Web site periodically as licensing laws and regulations change over time (see pp. 5-6).]

Please note: Licensed Psychologist is the official licensure title in California. The BOP Web site (see above) lists 18,023 licensed psychologists as of February 5, 2012, including these Southern California counties: 4,482 in Los Angeles County, 1,757 in San Diego County, 1,265 in Orange County, 384 in San Bernardino County, 312 in Riverside County, 266 in Ventura County, 223 in Santa Barbara County, and 8 in Imperial County.

Please note: In 2004 (source: American Psychological Association) there were an estimated 85,000 licensed psychologists in the U.S. Many licensed psychologists (see above regarding licensure title) are graduates of clinical psychology doctoral programs, and often have one or more specialties such as child psychology, clinical psychology, consulting psychology, counseling psychology, forensic psychology, geropsychology, health psychology, industrial-organizational psychology, neuropsychology, rehabilitation psychology, or sport-exercise psychology, etc. Please note: These psychology careers do not always require licensure. Licensure is usually required for direct clinical practice. Not all licensed psychologists actually work as clinicians; some licensed psychologists work primarily or exclusively as administrators, consultants, faculty, or researchers in various settings; many positions in these settings do not require licensure.

Please note: As reported in the American Psychological Association Monitor on Psychology (Vol. 38, No. 6, June 2007 issue), 24% of doctoral recipients in clinical psychology in the U.S. in 1974 were women; 58% of such recipients in 1990 were women; and 73% of such recipients in 2005 were women. [Commentary: In my opinion, the longer educational time, greater tuition expense, higher cost of professional liability insurance, and higher licensing fees for licensed psychologists compared to licensed MFTs and LCSWs, as well as certain managed care referral preferences for licensed MFTs and LCSWs related to lower reimbursement rates for MFTs and LCSWs compared to higher rates for licensed psychologists, all have contributed to the trend that fewer men and more women have been enrolling in clinical psychology programs.]

Please note: Only American Psychological Association (APA) Commission on Accreditation accredited clinical psychology doctoral programs are listed in this paper. The APA Web site is: <www.apa.org/ed/accreditation/programs/index.aspx>. [Commentary: Though not required for California licensure, in my opinion it is advisable for aspiring licensed psychologists to attend an APA accredited doctoral program, especially for research, university teaching, and some clinical
All the APA accredited clinical psychology doctoral programs in the Southern California region (see p. 3) are listed below.

Please note: The Alliant International University (AIU)/CSPP (see p. 7) doctoral program system in Los Angeles (Alhambra), San Diego, Fresno (please note: The Fresno/Sacramento Psy.D. program is on APA probation status), Sacramento, and San Francisco produces the highest number of licensed psychologists in California compared to any other doctoral program in the nation. The AIU/CSPP program is four years for a Psy.D. (Doctor of Psychology) and five years for a Ph.D. For psychology licensure statistics, see the BOP Web site (p. 19), and then go to the links for “Applicant,” then “Examinations,” and then “Examination Statistics” and “Number of Graduates Licensed Per School.”

The Ph.D., referred to as the scientist-practitioner model, has been the more traditional degree in clinical psychology. The newer Psy.D. degree, referred to as the practitioner-scholar model, is sometimes geared for individuals interested more in direct clinical practice rather than teaching or research. Either degree meets psychology licensure requirements. Teaching or research positions sometimes favor the Ph.D. degree, though the Psy.D. can also serve in this regard.

In San Diego County, the APA accredited clinical psychology doctoral programs are: Alliant International University/CSPP (San Diego; Ph.D. and Psy.D. degrees), and the San Diego State University/UC San Diego conjoint five year clinical psychology doctoral program (Ph.D. degree).

In Orange County, Argosy University (Orange) has an APA accredited clinical psychology doctoral program. Argosy also has an APA accredited program in Alameda (please note: The Argosy program in Alameda is on APA probation status), and APA accredited programs in other states, including Arizona and Hawaii.

In the counties of Imperial, Riverside, and Ventura, there are no APA accredited clinical psychology doctoral programs.

In San Bernardino County, Loma Linda University (LLU) has an APA accredited clinical psychology doctoral program. LLU includes a Christian view.

In Los Angeles County, the APA accredited clinical psychology doctoral programs are at: Alliant International University/CSPP (Alhambra), Azusa Pacific University (APU; Azusa), Biola University (Biola; La Mirada), Fuller Theological Seminary (Fuller; Pasadena), Pepperdine University (West Los Angeles), UC Los Angeles, University of La Verne, and the University of Southern California (Los Angeles). APU, Biola, and Fuller include a Christian view.

In Santa Barbara County, Fielding Graduate University (Santa Barbara) has an APA accredited (please note: Fielding is on APA probation status) clinical psychology doctoral program that uses a distributed learning format, using tutorial instruction. UC Santa Barbara has an APA accredited combined professional-scientific psychology doctoral program with clinical,
counseling, or school psychology (see also p. 25) options.

Please note: Legislation in California called SB 993 Psychologists: Scope of Practice failed in 2008. SB 993 would have allowed California licensed psychologists with additional training and education to administer and prescribe psychotropic (psychiatric) medications as “Medical Psychologists.” Prescriptive authority for licensed psychologists with additional training and education was approved in New Mexico in 2002 and in Louisiana in 2004; such legislation was approved for the U.S. territory of Guam in 1999 (source: American Psychological Association.)

Psychiatry Careers

To become a psychiatrist, an individual first must earn a degree as a doctor of medicine (M.D.) or doctor of osteopathy (D.O.), and then complete a residency program in psychiatry. A psychiatrist is licensed as a physician in California by the Medical Board of California (MBC) and not as a psychiatrist. The MBC Web site is: <www.mbc.ca.gov>. Please note: Some psychiatrists also complete a second residency program, sometimes called a fellowship, in a specialty area of psychiatry, such as addictions, child and adolescent, geriatric, or forensic, to qualify for a national examination for board certification in the specialty area.

The Medical Board of California (see above) recognized medical schools at Loma Linda University, Stanford University, UC Davis, UC Irvine, UC Los Angeles, UC San Diego (UCSD), UC San Francisco (which also has a medical school campus in Fresno), and the University of Southern California (Los Angeles), which are all WASC accredited (see p. 3) universities, all have psychiatry residency programs accredited by the national Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. As an example, UCSD offers a four-year general psychiatry residency program, a two-year fellowship program in child and adolescent psychiatry, a geriatric fellowship, and other specialized programs. Board certification (see above) is often required for psychiatrists to qualify for the provider panels of many managed care organizations, etc. Psychiatrists work in activities such as psychiatric evaluations, therapy, research, psychiatric hospitalizations, medication monitoring, consultation, supervision, teaching, and administration.

There is a shortage of psychiatrists in the U.S., including specializations in child psychiatry and geriatric psychiatry. American Medical Association (AMA) physician surveys in 2000 showed 45,615 psychiatrists in the U.S., including 6,158 child psychiatrists; the same surveys showed 5,046 psychiatrists, including 688 child psychiatrists, in California (source: Academic Psychiatry journal, Winter 2003 online edition). An AMA report in 2010 estimated there were around 7,000 child and adolescent psychiatrists in the U.S. By some reports, around 70 percent of patients in the U.S. using psychotropic (psychiatric) medications have these medications prescribed by their primary care physicians rather than by mental health professionals.

Alcohol and Drug Counseling/Certification
Various organizations (two major ones are listed below) offer Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) counselor certification in California. There are career opportunities for alcohol and drug counseling specialists in agencies, hospitals, residential treatment centers, and other settings.

Alcohol/drug studies certificate and/or degree academic programs are offered at the following institutions in the Southern California region (see p. 3); two of these institutions (marked by an asterisk*) also have specialized certificates available to mental health or other professionals. This is a partial listing of the alcohol/drug studies academic programs in Southern California:

In Imperial County: Imperial Valley College (Imperial).

In Los Angeles County: CSU Dominguez Hills (CSUDH, Carson) College of Extended and International Education, Long Beach City College, Los Angeles City College, Loyola Marymount University (LMU) Extension, and UC Los Angeles (UCLA) Extension* (see above).

In Orange County: Cypress College (A.A. degree is in human services), and Saddleback College (Mission Viejo).

In Riverside County: College of the Desert (Palm Desert), and Mt. San Jacinto College (Menifee and San Jacinto campuses).

In San Bernardino County: San Bernardino Valley College (A.A. degree is in human services).

In San Diego County: Alliant International University (AIU)/CSPP (see p. 7; San Diego), National University (San Diego), Palomar College (San Marcos), San Diego City College, and UC San Diego (UCSD) Extension.

In Santa Barbara County: Santa Barbara City College* (see above).

In Ventura County: Oxnard College.

All these institutions are WASC accredited (see p. 3); these are community colleges except for AIU/CSPP, CSUDH, LMU, National, UCLA, and UCSD. The community colleges listed all have CAADE accredited (see below) programs, and offer an associate in arts or science (A.A. or A.S.) degree (except as noted above) and also a certificate in alcohol/drug studies. The Web site for WASC accredited community colleges is: <www.accjc.org>. The universities listed offer a certificate in this field. The California Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors (CAADAC) requires alcohol/drug studies and supervised work experience in this field to achieve AOD (see above) certification; CAADAC also approves qualifying academic programs; the CAADAC Web site is: <www.caadac.org>. The California Association for Alcohol/Drug Educators (CAADE) requires alcohol/drug studies and supervised work experience in this field to achieve AOD certification; CAADE also accredits qualifying academic programs; the CAADE Web site is: <www.caade.org>. There are also other AOD certifying organizations.
Please note: California AB 239 legislation on alcohol and drug counseling licensure failed in 2008. This legislation was reintroduced in 2009 as SB 707 Alcohol and Other Drug Counselor Licensing and Certification, and in 2010 as SB 686 and then SB 1203; these California bills failed in 2010; the BBS (see p. 5) and CAADAC Web sites have updates. [Commentary: It appears likely such legislation will be introduced again in the future.]

**School Counseling/PPS Credentialing**

These are all the WASC accredited (see p. 3) institutions that have California CTC (see below) approved school counseling master’s degree programs and Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) school counseling credential (see below) programs in the Southern California region (see p. 3):

In Los Angeles County: Azusa Pacific University (Azusa), California Lutheran University (Woodland Hills), CSU Dominguez Hills (Carson), CSU Long Beach, CSU Los Angeles, CSU Northridge, Loyola Marymount University (Los Angeles), National University (Los Angeles and Sherman Oaks), Phillips Graduate Institute (Encino), Point Loma Nazarene University (Arcadia), University of La Verne, and the University of Southern California (Los Angeles).

In Orange County: Azusa Pacific University (Orange), Chapman University (Orange), National University (Costa Mesa), and the University of Redlands (Santa Ana).

In Riverside County: Azusa Pacific University (Murrieta), Brandman University (see p. 7; Palm Desert), California Baptist University (Riverside), and La Sierra University (Riverside).

In San Bernardino County: Azusa Pacific University (San Bernardino and Victorville), CSU San Bernardino, National University (San Bernardino), and the University of Redlands (Redlands main campus). Please note: Loma Linda University (LLU), for LLU MFT program students or graduates, offers a PPS credential program only; LLU also considers applicants with MFT degrees from other institutions. Please note: LLU also offers a master’s in counseling degree with LPCC licensure eligible degree and school counseling degree/PPS credential options (see also pp. 17-18).

In San Diego County: Azusa Pacific University (San Diego), Brandman University (see p. 7; San Diego), National University (San Diego), Point Loma Nazarene University (San Diego/Mission Valley campus), San Diego State University, and the University of San Diego.

In Ventura County: Azusa Pacific University (Oxnard), and California Lutheran University (Oxnard and Thousand Oaks main campus).

School counseling graduate degrees are sometimes listed as educational counseling. For employment purposes, the Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) School Counseling Credential authorized by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC) also must be
completed. This credential requires completion of post bachelor degree studies, usually a master’s degree, with a minimum of 48 semester units, in a Commission (CCTC) approved program specializing in school counseling, and an approved practicum (internship) with school-aged children.

Please note: Individuals aspiring to become credentialed school counselors often complete both their school counseling degree and credential program, which includes the required internship, at the same institution. Some individuals complete their school counseling degree and then their credential program at different institutions. Or, some individuals first complete a related degree other than school counseling, such as counseling, MFT, or MSW, and then complete the remaining prerequisites and requirements that would otherwise be part of a school counseling degree, along with the PPS credentialing program, to become school counselors.

The California CTC (CCTC) Web site is: <www.ctc.ca.gov>. Please note: The California CTC Web site lists all the CCTC approved degree and credentialing programs in California, including programs in school counseling and school psychology, at WASC accredited and other regional accredited (see p. 3) institutions.

**School Psychology/PPS Credentialing**

These are **all** the WASC accredited (see p. 3) institutions that have CCTC approved (see p. 23) school psychology (called educational psychology degrees at some institutions; see p. 25) master’s degree programs and Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) school psychology credential programs in the Southern California region (see p. 3):

In Los Angeles County: Alliant International University (AIU; Alhambra), Azusa Pacific University (Azusa), CSU Long Beach, CSU Los Angeles, CSU Northridge, Loyola Marymount University (Los Angeles), National University (Los Angeles), Phillips Graduate Institute (Encino), University of La Verne, and the University of Southern California (Los Angeles). AIU also has a doctoral program in school psychology.

In Orange County: Alliant International University (AIU; Irvine), Azusa Pacific University (Orange), Chapman University (Orange), and National University (Costa Mesa). AIU also has a doctoral program in school psychology.

In Riverside County: Azusa Pacific University (Murrieta), California Baptist University (Riverside), and La Sierra University (Riverside). UC Riverside has an APA accredited (see p. 19) school psychology doctoral program along with a PPS credential.

In San Bernardino County: Azusa Pacific University (San Bernardino and Victorville). Please note: CSU San Bernardino offers a PPS credential program only; this CSUSB program is designed for professionals who have or are close to completing a master’s or doctoral degree in
educational counseling, psychology, special education, MFT, social work, or a related field.

In San Diego County: Alliant International University (AIU; San Diego), Brandman University (see p. 7; San Diego), National University (San Diego), and San Diego State University. AIU also has a doctoral program in school psychology.

In Santa Barbara County: UC Santa Barbara (UCSB). UCSB also has an APA accredited (see pp. 20-21) combined professional-scientific psychology doctoral program in school psychology.

In Ventura County: Azusa Pacific University (Oxnard).

School psychology graduate degrees are sometimes listed as educational psychology. The California BBS Web site (see p. 5) lists all the WASC accredited (see p. 3) institutions that offer a degree and PPS credential in school psychology in California. For employment purposes, the PPS School Psychology Credential authorized by the California CTC (see p. 23) also must be completed. This credential requires completion of post bachelor degree studies, usually a master’s degree, with a minimum of 60 semester units, in a Commission (CCTC; see p. 23) approved program specializing in school psychology, and an approved practicum (internship) with school-aged children. Please note: See also the Licensed Educational Psychologist information listed below.

Please note: Individuals aspiring to become credentialed school psychologists often complete both their school psychology degree and credential program at the same institution. Some individuals complete their school psychology degree and then their credential program at different institutions. Or, some individuals first complete a related degree other than school psychology, such as psychology, MFT, MSW, or special education, and then complete the prerequisites and requirements that would otherwise be part of a school psychology degree, along with the PPS credentialing program, to become school psychologists.

Please note: School districts usually employ fewer school psychologists as compared to school counselors. School psychologists typically earn higher salaries than school counselors.

**Licensed Educational Psychologist**

The California Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS; see p. 5) has a licensure status called Licensed Educational Psychologist (LEP). LEP status first requires PPS credentialing as a school psychologist (see above). A LEP applicant must have three years, or the equivalent, of full-time experience as a PPS credentialed school psychologist in public schools; at its discretion, the BBS may also approve such experience in private or parochial schools. The LEP applicant must have a minimum of a master’s degree in psychology, educational psychology, school psychology, counseling and guidance, or an equivalent degree as approved by the BBS, with a minimum of 60 semester units, from a WASC accredited or other regional accredited (see p. 3) institution.
Applicants meeting the academic degree, PPS credential, and experience qualifications are eligible for the single examination by the BBS for LEP licensure. There are significantly fewer LEPs compared to licensed MFTs and LCSWs. The BBS Web site (see p. 5) lists 1,813 LEPs as of January 1, 2013. LEPs in independent practice may qualify for reimbursement under some insurance plans though not to the same extent as for licensed MFTs, LCSWs, and other clinicians. [Commentary: Aspiring licensed educational psychologists should review the BBS Web site periodically as licensing statutes and regulations change over time (see p. 5).]

**PPS Credentialing/Social Work**

Please note: All the universities listed in this section (p. 26) are WASC accredited (see p. 3). The MSW programs (all CSWE accredited; see p. 14) at CSU Long Beach (CSULB), San Diego State University (SDSU), UC Los Angeles (UCLA), and the University of Southern California (USC) offer a PPS Credential in School Social Work, integrated with the MSW program or as a post-MSW degree credential program; this also requires completion of a practicum with school-aged children. The MSW programs at CSULB, SDSU, UCLA, and USC also offer a PPS Credential in School Child Welfare and Attendance, integrated with the MSW program or as a post MSW degree credential program; this also requires completion of a practicum with school-aged children. These two credentials, also authorized by the California CTC (see p. 23), are different from the school counseling and school psychology PPS credentials (see pp. 23-25).

Please note: There are typically fewer job positions available for PPS credentialed school social workers as compared to PPS credentialed school counselors. Some private organizations employ LCSWs (see p. 10) to provide therapy services for students in certain school based settings; this work typically does not require a PPS credential.

**Rehabilitation Counseling**

Please note: The three universities listed here are WASC accredited (see p. 3) and have CORE (see below) accredited programs. In San Diego County, San Diego State University has a master’s in rehabilitation counseling degree with two options, including one with a specialization in deafness, late-deafened, and hard of hearing; please note: Some SDSU on campus or distance education courses can apply toward LPCC (see p. 16) licensure. In San Bernardino County, CSU San Bernardino has a master’s in rehabilitation counseling degree. In Los Angeles County, CSU Los Angeles has a master’s in rehabilitation counseling degree. There are no master’s in rehabilitation counseling degree programs available in the counties of Imperial, Orange, Riverside, Santa Barbara, and Ventura. Some rehabilitation counselors work in colleges and universities. Rehabilitation counselors also work in hospitals, state rehabilitation agencies, and various private and public settings. Please note: The Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE) nationally accredits rehabilitation counseling programs in the U.S. The CORE Web site is: <www.core-rehab.org>. 
College and Career Counseling

Please note: Except for Kansas State University (KSU), all the universities listed in this section (p. 27) are WASC accredited (see p. 3). KSU in Manhattan, Kansas has an online format master’s degree in academic advising with two options: (1) Advising administration, and (2) intercollegiate athletics and the college student. KSU has regional accreditation (see p. 3) from the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

There are no WASC accredited institutions offering specialized master’s degree programs in college or career counseling in the counties of Imperial, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, or Santa Barbara. Please note: All the following master’s degree programs reflect semester units:

In Los Angeles County, CSU Northridge has a 60 unit master’s degree in career counseling, and a 60 unit master’s degree in college counseling and student services. CSU Long Beach has a master’s degree (51 to 57 units) in student development in higher education. The University of La Verne has a 47 unit master’s degree in college counseling and student services. The University of Southern California (Los Angeles) has a 46 unit master’s degree in higher education counseling. Azusa Pacific University (Azusa main campus) has a 42 unit master’s degree in college counseling and student development.

In San Diego County, San Diego State University has the Community-Based Block (CBB) program. The CBB program is a one year, 30 unit master’s degree in counseling, which can serve for some community college, college, and university counseling and advising positions, or as preparation for other graduate counseling programs.

In Ventura County, California Lutheran University (Thousand Oaks main campus) has a 38 unit master’s degree in college student personnel.

Some MFTs, MSWs, psychologists, and individuals with other counseling or related degrees also work as college counselors, career counselors, or advisors. Community college, four-year college, and university counselor positions usually require a master’s degree or higher. Four-year college and university advisor positions require a bachelor’s degree or higher. Career counselors work in community colleges, colleges, and universities, and various private and public settings.

Specialized Therapy Fields

Please note: All the institutions listed in this section (pp. 27-29) are WASC accredited (see p. 3), except CMER (see p. 28). The following are some specialized fields in therapy: Art therapy, dance/movement therapy, drama therapy, music therapy, play therapy, and therapeutic recreation. The Web sites of the major national professional associations in these fields have information on degree, educational programs, and career requirements. By example, the American Art Therapy Association (AATA) Web site lists the undergraduate, master’s degree, and post master’s degree
AATA approved programs nationwide. The American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) Web site lists the bachelor’s degree and graduate degree AMTA approved programs nationwide. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Web site lists the NRPA sponsored Council on Accreditation of Parks, Recreation, Tourism and Related Professions (COAPRT) accredited bachelor’s degree in recreation programs nationwide, including programs with an option in therapeutic recreation.

The Association for Play Therapy (APT) Web site lists the APT approved providers and universities nationwide offering play therapy certificates or other training for mental health professionals. By example, UC San Diego Extension offers an APT approved play therapy certificate. A few graduate programs in the U.S., such as the Alliant International University/CSPP (see p. 7) clinical psychology Ph.D. program in Fresno, include as an option all the APT required courses for play therapy certification.

Phillips Graduate Institute (Phillips; Encino) and Notre Dame de Namur University (NDNU; Belmont) have the only AATA (see p. 27) approved, combined master’s degree in MFT/art therapy programs in California. NDNU also has non-clinical licensure track master’s and post master’s degrees in art therapy programs. Loyola Marymount University (LMU; Los Angeles) has an AATA approved MFT master’s degree program with a specialization option in art therapy. LMU, NDNU, and Phillips have the only AATA approved programs in California.

CSU Northridge and the University of the Pacific (UOP; Stockton) have the only AMTA (see above) approved bachelor’s degree programs in music therapy in California. UOP also has the only AMTA approved master’s degree in music therapy program in California.

CSU Long Beach (CSULB) and CSU Chico have the only COAPRT (see above) accredited bachelor’s degree programs in recreation with an option in therapeutic recreation (please note: Shown as option D on the COAPRT accredited programs list) in California. These programs prepare graduates for the examinations for California Board of Recreation and Park Certification and National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification, as both certifications are often required for employment in therapeutic recreation in California (see the CSULB Web site.)

The American Dance Therapy Association (ADTA) Web site lists the ADTA approved master’s Degree programs in dance/movement therapy; there are none in California. As an alternate route, the ADTA Web site also lists organizations offering graduate level coursework in this field (Center for Movement Education and Research [CMER] is the only ADTA approved organization in California), as a means for individuals with master’s or doctoral degrees in fields such as counseling, dance, family therapy, occupational therapy, psychiatric nursing, psychology, social work, and special education to become dance/movement therapists.

The National Association for Drama Therapy (NADT) Web site lists the only two universities in the U.S., and one in Canada, offering NADT approved master’s degrees in drama therapy, including the California Institute of Integral Studies (CIIS; San Francisco). CIIS offers master’s
degrees in drama therapy and expressive arts therapy; these CIIS programs also meet BBS MFT (see p. 6) standards. The NADT Web site also provides information on how individuals with master’s or doctoral degrees in fields such as art, counseling, dance, music, nursing, occupational therapy, psychology, recreational therapy, social work, special education, and theatre can become drama therapists via various courses, workshops, and other trainings in drama therapy.

Applied Behavior Analysis Programs

Applied behavior analysis (ABA) utilizes learning principles to address the behavioral needs of diverse individuals in various settings. Among the WASC accredited (see p. 3) universities in the Southern California region (see p. 3) with ABA training approved by the national Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB) are the following: (1) CSU Los Angeles has a master’s degree in ABA program; (2) Alliant International University/CSPP (see p. 7; San Diego), CSU Northridge, National University (Camarillo, Costa Mesa, Ontario, and Sherman Oaks), and San Diego State University all have ABA certificate programs; and (3) Azusa Pacific University (Azusa, Los Angeles, Murrieta, Orange, Oxnard, San Bernardino, San Diego, Victorville, and online) has ABA courses as an option within a non-credential special education master’s degree program. The BACB offers certification for candidates meeting the requirements for the national BACB certification examination as follows: (1) a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) must have earned at least a master’s degree from an accredited institution, with the degree meeting the BACB standards, have completed 225 classroom hours of specific graduate level behavior analytic coursework, and have completed 1,500 supervised hours in ABA; (2) a Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA) must have earned at least a bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution, with the degree meeting the BACB standards, have completed 135 classroom hours of specific behavior analytic coursework, and have completed 1,000 supervised hours in ABA; and (3) BCBA with qualifying doctoral degrees can apply for BCBA-D doctoral level certification. See the BACB Web site for details on eligible degrees: <www.bacb.com>.

Genetic Counseling Programs

As of January 1, 2013, there are 31 graduate programs in the U.S. and three in Canada with a degree in genetic counseling accredited by the American Board of Genetic Counseling (ABGC). The ABGC Web site is: <www.abgc.net>. Genetic counselors are health professionals who work as part of a health care team to provide information, review available options, and provide support to (1) families who have family members with birth defects or genetic disorders and to (2) families and individuals who may be at risk for various inherited conditions.

Admission to a genetic counseling program requires a bachelor’s degree, significant paid or volunteer experience in the counseling and/or health care field, and typically the following prerequisites, depending on the specific program: one course each in biochemistry, genetics, molecular biology, and statistics, and one course in counseling theory or developmental
psychology or a similar topic. Genetic counselors typically work in settings such as university medical centers, public and private hospitals, large health maintenance organizations (HMOs), private practice, and commercial laboratories.

In California, the ABGC has accredited the master’s degree in genetic counseling programs at the following universities (all WASC accredited; see p. 3): CSU Stanislaus (CSUS; Turlock), Stanford University, and UC Irvine (UCI). California and New York each have three ABGC accredited programs, more than in any other states. Outside of California, only the University of Colorado Denver and the University of Utah have ABGC accredited genetic counseling graduate programs in the Western region of the U.S.; the Colorado and Utah programs are each fully accredited by the ABGC.

As of January 1, 2013, Stanford, UCI, and CSUS have the only genetic counseling programs in California that are fully accredited by the ABGC. The UCI program began in 1973, one of only six master’s degree in genetic counseling programs that existed nationwide at that time; the UCI program is based at the UCI Medical Center in Orange. CSUS gained full ABGC accreditation in summer 2011. The CSUS and Stanford programs are fairly new; Stanford now has full ABGC accreditation. All three California programs are two year graduate programs with small cohort sizes. Orange. The CSUS program coursework is offered at UC San Francisco, San Francisco State University, and Oakland Kaiser Permanente Medical Center. The Stanford program is based at the Stanford School of Medicine.

Human Resources Careers

Human resources careers involve personnel management and support functions in both public and private organizations. Various institutions, such as Azusa Pacific University, Brandman University (see p. 7), Chapman University, and National University (all WASC accredited; see p. 3) have degrees or certificates in human resources, as do some CSUs; by example, CSU San Marcos (WASC accredited) Extended Learning offers a certificate program in human resources. Bachelor’s and master’s degrees in various fields, such as the behavioral sciences and business administration, also can serve for human resources work. Prior experience in human services, behavioral sciences, or business management also can assist in securing employment in the human resources field.

Tuition Cost Comparisons

The following information is intended as a representative sample of tuition costs for the clinical psychology, MFT, MSW, school counseling, and school psychology programs listed in this paper. The costs for the programs at the private universities were obtained by telephone in early October 2008 from Admissions staff at these universities. Please note: The costs for the CSU programs are based on fall 2008 information on Web sites for these programs and their universities; the CSU tuition rates have been increasing related to the California state budget
deficits in recent years.

Tuition costs can sometimes be reduced via tuition fee waivers, work study programs, grants, stipends, fellowships, and scholarships. Please also see the “Financial Assistance” section on p. 33. The tuition costs at private universities are usually significantly higher than at CSUs or UCs for comparable degree programs, even with the recent CSU and UC fee increases. **Please note:** The CSU fee increases since summer 2009 are not included in this section (pp. 30-34).

Please note: Only a few of the programs listed in this paper are included in the following comparison of tuition costs. Except as noted, any references to units are for semester units. A potential applicant for any program should always verify the actual projected tuition costs with the specific academic institution. Tuition fees are subject to change.

**Please note: The costs listed are** the total program tuition costs (but not including other expenses) for the following programs, based on tuition rates for the 2008-2009 academic year, except as noted.

Clinical Psychology Programs:

**Alliant International University/CSPP:**
Ph.D. program = $151,500 (2011-2012 rates); for applicants entering with a bachelor’s degree.
Psy.D. program = $121,200 (2011-2012 rates); for applicants entering with a bachelor’s degree; there are additional costs if there is an area of specialization.

**Azusa Pacific University:**
Pre-Psy.D. option = $17,160; for applicants not already holding a qualifying master’s degree, this 33 unit graduate program prepares students for admission to the Psy.D. program.
Psy.D. program = $73,500; in lieu of completing the Pre-Psy.D. option, an applicant with a master’s degree in clinical psychology or a closely related discipline can apply for admission to the Psy.D. program. Please note: For applicants without the qualifying master’s degree, the total cost for the Azusa Pacific combined Pre-Psy.D. option and Psy.D. program = $90,660.

MFT Programs:

Please note: Many California MFT programs are at private institutions with WASC or other regional accreditation (see p. 3). Several California MFT programs are at CSUs, which have WASC accreditation (see p. 3). Only master’s level MFT programs are listed below.

**Alliant International University/CSPP = $63,630 (2011-2012 rates); this is a 63 unit program.**

**Argosy University = $29,155 (per Argosy Web site information); this is a 49 unit program.**
MFT Programs continued:

Azusa Pacific University = $31,200; this is a 60 unit program.

Chapman University and Brandman University (see p. 7) = $36,720; this is a 54 unit program.

CSU Fullerton = estimated $10,915, based on attending full-time program for 2.5 years; part-time program cost is higher. This is a 60 unit program.

National University = $26,082. National University students complete one course at a time, with each course lasting one month. This program is 18 courses, for 81 quarter units.

San Diego State University = estimated $13,386, based on attending full-time program for 3 years; part-time program cost is higher. This is a 60 unit program.

University of Phoenix = $27,810 (per March 2009 telephone call); this is a 54 unit program.

University of San Diego = $61,200 (2010-2011 rates); 51 unit program plus certain other requirements.

MSW Programs:

Please note: Most California MSW programs are at CSU institutions. Two UCs have MSW programs: UC Berkeley and UC Los Angeles. Azusa Pacific University, Loma Linda University, and the University of Southern California are the only private California universities that have MSW programs. All the social work programs that are based in California are at WASC accredited (see p. 3) universities. Bachelor’s level and doctoral social work programs are not listed below.

Azusa Pacific University = $31,200 for both two-year full-time and four-year part-time programs; these are 60 unit programs.

CSU Fullerton: Two-year full-time program = $8,732; this is a 60 unit program.

CSU Long Beach: Two-year full-time program = $8,200; three-year part-time program = $10,722; three-year part-time distance education program at Ventura College and Sonoma State University host campuses = $14,520; these are 60 unit programs.

CSU San Bernardino (quarter system): Two-year full-time program = $9,009; three-year part-time program = $12,987.50; these are 86 quarter unit programs.

San Diego State University: Two-year full-time program = $8,924; three-year part-time program
MSW programs continued:

= $11,808; four-year part-time program = $14,692; these are 60 unit programs.

University of Southern California: Two-year full-time program = estimated $76,000; three-year part-time program = estimated $83,000; four-year part-time program = estimated $90,000; these are 60 unit programs. Online programs are also available (see p. 12).

School Counseling Programs:

Please note: These tuition costs include the practicum (internship) time required for the PPS credential in school counseling (see pp. 23-24). School counseling programs, including the school counseling degree and the credential program, which includes the school counseling internship, are around two years for full-time students. Some school counseling programs allow course credit from other master’s programs, including MFT or MSW degrees.

Azusa Pacific University = $24,480

Chapman University = $26,160 at Orange campus; the cost at Brandman University (see p. 7) campuses varies; in San Diego it is $27,360.

National University = $33,327

San Diego State University = estimated $11,808, based on full-time program; part-time program cost is higher.

University of San Diego = $57,600 (2010-2011 rates)

School Psychology Programs:

Please note: These tuition costs include the practicum (internship) time required for the PPS credential in school psychology (see p. 25). Master’s level school psychology programs, including the school psychology degree and the credential program, which includes the school psychology internship, are often around one year longer in duration than school counseling programs. Only master’s level school psychology programs are listed below.

Alliant International University = $34,200 (2011-2012 rates)

Azusa Pacific University = $33,660

Chapman University = $37,605 at Orange campus; the cost at Brandman University (see p. 7)
School Psychology Programs continued:

campuses varies; in San Diego it is $46,920.

National University = $43,470

San Diego State University = estimated $17,848, based on full-time program; part-time program cost is higher.

Financial Assistance

In California, there are Title IV-E Child Welfare Services stipends available to qualifying MSW students in child welfare services settings. There are California Mental Health Services Act (see pp. 9-10) stipends available to qualifying clinical psychology, MFT, and MSW graduate student interns in certain mental health settings. Various other financial assistance options are available to qualifying students in the programs listed in this paper. For qualifying students, there are also rehabilitation services funding, veterans services funding, and other special funding programs. There are also various federal and state educational loan repayment programs.

Undergraduate Experience

It is advisable to gain as much career related paid or unpaid experience as possible prior to entering a graduate program. In selecting applicants for admission, graduate programs in the various counseling fields listed in this paper typically consider not only an applicant’s academic record and achievements, inclusive of grades and any awards or research projects, but also the level of interest reflected by an applicant’s volunteer service, undergraduate internships, or employment in health or human service agencies, schools, or related settings. Such relevant experience not only can help an individual decide upon a specific career or graduate program, but also can enhance the opportunities for obtaining employment upon graduation from a bachelor’s degree program. Similarly, developing conversational skills in another language, such as Spanish, can help enhance employment opportunities and even some internship opportunities. Both professional and language skills development can be especially important in highly competitive job markets such as the Southern California region (see p. 3) and other urban areas.

Bachelor’s Degree Level or Higher Careers

There are career opportunities at the bachelor’s degree level, especially for individuals with social sciences or behavioral sciences majors, inclusive of bachelor’s degrees in child development, criminal justice, human development, human services, psychology, social sciences, social work, and sociology, to work in health or human services or related settings as
administrative assistants, case aides, case managers, child or adult day care staff, child or adult protective services workers, child or adult residential care staff, client advocates, correctional officers, group facilitators, health educators, human resources staff, in home support services staff, parenting instructors, parole or probation officers, research assistants, unlicensed counselors, and other positions. With work experience, some individuals with bachelor’s degrees become supervisors, program managers, etc.

At the bachelor’s degree level or higher, there are employment opportunities for college and university advisors (see p. 27). There are employment opportunities at the bachelor’s degree level for music therapists (see p. 28) and recreational therapists/therapeutic recreational specialists (see p. 28). There are employment opportunities for board certified assistant behavior analysts (see p. 29) at the bachelor’s degree level.

There are employment opportunities for AOD (see pp. 21-23) certified alcohol and drug counselors with an alcohol/drug studies certificate, associate’s degree in this field, or bachelor’s degree. Individuals with graduate degrees also work in this field.

Especially given the competitive job market, some individuals with bachelor’s degrees find opportunities in various settings as interns or volunteers, which can lead toward eventual employment. In addition, employment can also serve as valuable experience for individuals who decide later on to apply for graduate programs in various fields.

Please note: Some individuals with bachelor’s or other degrees choose to pursue entrepreneurial careers in their own businesses, which can include allied health care, educational, and human services fields. A few examples include after school programs, child care centers, consulting services, in home support services, residential care homes, and tutoring services; in some cases this may require varying types of certification, credentialing, or licensure. For independent practice in the counseling field, master’s degrees or higher with appropriate licensure and experience are typically required in California and most other states.

Summary/Additional Information

Only WASC or other regionally accredited (see p. 3) institutions are listed in this paper. Especially in the clinical counseling (such as the new LPCC category related degrees), clinical psychology, and marital and family therapy fields, there are various counseling or counseling related graduate programs offered at California institutions that do not have WASC or other regional accreditation; these institutions are not listed in this paper. Please note: Graduate programs at WASC accredited institutions typically require applicants for admission to these programs to have earned undergraduate degrees from WASC or other regionally accredited institutions.

For clinical psychology doctoral programs, only those institutions in the Southern California
region (see p. 3) that have WASC or other regional accreditation (see p. 3) and whose programs also have APA accreditation (see p. 19) are listed in this paper. Please note: If an institution has an APA accredited program in another state but has a non APA accredited program in the Southern California region, then such an institution is not listed in this paper.

[Commentary: In my opinion, it is not advisable to attend a program in the counseling or counseling related field at an institution lacking WASC or other regional (see p. 3) accreditation, or to attend a clinical psychology doctoral program lacking APA accreditation (see p. 19), especially for individuals interested in future licensure, certification, or credentialing in a counseling or counseling related field. Also in my opinion, it is not advisable to attend a program in the counseling or counseling related field at a BPPE only approved institution (see also pp. 6 and 18), i.e., an institution that is on the BPPE approved list but that lacks WASC or other regional accreditation; the BPPE Web site is: <www.bppe.ca.gov>. Graduates from a BPPE only approved institution in California may have employment limitations in certain settings, or issues with licensure eligibility in other states.]

Please note: There are various online or mostly online format graduate programs in the counseling or counseling related field. Some of these programs are offered by WASC or other regionally accredited (see p. 3) institutions, while some programs are offered by institutions lacking WASC or other regional accreditation. For individuals interested in future licensure, certification, or credentialing in a counseling or counseling related field in California or elsewhere, it is important to verify with the appropriate state licensing boards or certification or credentialing organizations to determine whether those boards or organizations will accept the relevant degrees issued by specific institutions.

Please note: Some sources have reported that managed care is more pervasive in the Southern California region (see p. 3) compared to many other regions of the country. The managed care era has significantly affected many clinicians in all licensure categories, whether in corporate, independent practice, nonprofit, or public settings. By example, managed care has contributed to significant changes in the delivery of health care, including mental health services. These changes include mental health, which is often now called behavioral health, state and federal parity legislation for licensed clinical providers billing for private and government insurance reimbursements, as well as concerns about professional status. Managed care, such as employee assistance programs (EAPs) and health maintenance organizations (HMOs), has contributed to some licensed clinicians and their professional associations working together collaboratively more so than previously, though the various clinical professions also promote their distinctions.

**Careers in Adult and Gerontology Services, Children’s Services, and Health Services**

While the professional fields of study in this paper are listed as counseling or counseling related careers, they are also applicable toward many fields of service across the life span. Most of the fields listed in this *Counseling and Related Careers* paper also apply to careers in Adult and
Gerontology Services, including Advanced Practice Psychiatric Nursing, Alcohol and Drug Counseling, Clinical Psychology and Related Careers, Genetic Counseling, LPCC, MFT, MSW/LCSW, Psychiatry, Rehabilitation Counseling, and Specialized Therapy Fields in Art, Dance, Drama, and Music Therapy, as well as Therapeutic Recreation.

Most of the fields listed in this Counseling and Related Careers paper also apply to careers in Children’s Services, including Alcohol and Drug Counseling, Advanced Practice Psychiatric Nursing, Applied Behavior Analysis, Clinical Psychology and Related Careers, Genetic Counseling, Licensed Educational Psychologist, MFT, MSW/LCSW, Psychiatry, School Counseling, School Psychology, and Specialized Therapy Fields in Art, Music, and Play Therapy, as well as Therapeutic Recreation.

Most of the fields listed in this Counseling and Related Careers paper also apply to careers in Health Services, including Advanced Practice Psychiatric Nursing, Alcohol and Drug Counseling, Applied Behavior Analysis, Clinical Psychology and Related Careers, Genetic Counseling, LPCC, MFT, MSW/LCSW, Psychiatry, Rehabilitation Counseling, and the various Specialized Therapy Fields. For additional information on Health Care careers, please see a paper called Selected Health Care Careers via the CSU San Marcos Human Development Web site home page under the Link for Careers and Information (the same Link for this paper on Counseling and Related Careers). The fields listed in the Health Care Careers paper also apply toward Adult and Gerontology Services and Children’s Services.

Disclaimer

Reasonable efforts have been made to provide accurate information. This information is updated as feasible. Please note: The author’s personal opinions are shown within brackets as [Commentary:]. The Web site listings are current as of January 20, 2013.

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