



Paul D. Coverdell Fellows Program
Pacifica Graduate Institute

[Pacifica Graduate Institute](#) is a proud partner with the Peace Corps [Paul D. Coverdell Fellows Program](#). Pacifica provides financial assistance (see below) to returned Peace Corps Volunteers who qualify to study in two of Pacifica's graduate programs:

M.A./Ph.D. in Depth Psychology with specialization in [Community Psychology, Liberation Psychology, and Ecopsychology](#)

[M.A. in Counseling Psychology](#) with emphasis in Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Clinical Counseling, and Depth Psychology

All fellows complete internships or practicum in underserved American communities, allowing them to bring home, and expand upon, the skills they learned as Volunteers. Fellows begin the graduate program after having fully completed a Peace Corps assignment. All returned Peace Corps Volunteers who satisfactorily complete their service have lifetime eligibility for the Coverdell Fellows program.¹

M.A./Ph.D. Specialization in Community Psychology, Liberation Psychology, and Ecopsychology

This degree program specialization is a bold initiative to forge transdisciplinary and transformative approaches to some of the most critical personal, community, cultural, and ecological challenges of our time. Accomplishing this necessitates a radical engagement in re-conceiving psychology as a potentially liberatory and restorative force in society, one engaged in initiatives to promote social, economic, and environmental justice, peacebuilding, and ecological sustainability. The specialization is committed to rebuilding fragmented cultural and ecological connections, and to co-creating democratic, dialogical, joyful, sustainable, equitable and nonviolent living.

To study community and ecopsychology in the light of liberation and indigenous psychologies commits us to deeply explore and address the profound effects of injustice, violence, and exploitation on psychological, communal, and ecological well-being.

The curriculum places intercultural and decolonial approaches to depth psychological theories and practices in dynamic dialogue with ecopsychology, indigenous

psychologies, critical community psychology, and psychologies of liberation from diverse localities around the world. Students gain an understanding of the interdependence of individual, community, cultural, and ecological well-being.

Coursework nurtures creative approaches to collaboration in organizations, non-profits, community groups, and educational settings. Through community and ecological fieldwork and research, students are supported in the pursuit of their distinctive areas of interest, and in strengthening their research and practice skills. Students are able to make their own significant contributions to the attainment of a just and sustainable world, in which—as Paulo Freire said— “it is easier to love.”

Students in the Community Psychology, Liberation Psychology, and Ecopsychology Specialization:

- Deepen insight about individual, group, and cultural life through the study of depth psychology
- Develop scholarly and creative writing skills
- Learn innovative and historical approaches to trauma healing, restorative justice, ecological sustainability, community building, economic justice, forced migration, alternatives to violence, peacebuilding, and reconciliation
- Practice participatory action research and program and organizational evaluation, while deepening ethical discernment on issues of power and privilege
- Train in a wide variety of group approaches to cultural and ecological work
- Heighten sensitivity to the imaginal, the metaphorical, and the mythical
- Develop the capacity to teach in academic and community learning environments
- Apply insights to leadership positions in a wide variety of professions, including: health services; youth, adult, and alternative education; organizational development and transformation; prison reform and restorative justice initiatives; non-profits and non-governmental organizations; social justice,

advocacy and grass roots coalitions; arts-based community building; trauma healing; and environmental justice and sustainability

Unique Format: Classes for the Community Psychology, Liberation Psychology, and Ecopsychology specialization take place in nine three-day sessions (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday), approximately once each month during fall, winter, and spring. In the first and second summers, students complete fieldwork and research in their home communities or other off-campus sites. In the third summer and subsequent year(s), students are involved in writing their dissertations in their home communities. This format allows students to live in their home communities and travel to campus for three consecutive days each month, nine months a year.

Admissions Requirements: Applicants must have a bachelor's and/or master's degree from a regionally accredited or state-approved institution of higher learning. Applicants must also demonstrate aptitude in the following areas: a background in psychology through formal coursework or personal study and experience; a background in interdisciplinary studies, such as the humanities and social sciences with an emphasis in cultural studies, social justice studies, and/or environmental studies; a demonstrated interest in scholarly research and active community engagement around an issue of their concern.

Prospective students are asked to submit an online application at www.pacifica.edu. The fee is waived for Coverdell Program applicants. Other documents to submit include: resume, personal statement, and writing sample to the Office of Admissions. To complete the application file, official sealed transcripts and two letters of recommendation with recommendation forms should be forwarded to Pacifica Graduate Institute by the appropriate parties. Upon the Admissions Committee's review and recommendation, applicants will be invited to an admissions interview.

Admissions Cycle: Priority decision made on June 30; admissions cycle continues based upon space availability. Because there is a limited number of Coverdell Fellow scholarships (four last year), we recommend that you apply early.

Contact: Alyson Alexander, Admission Advisor, [\(aalexander@pacifica.edu\)](mailto:aalexander@pacifica.edu),
[\(805\) 879-7307](tel:(805)879-7307)

Financial Assistance: Pacifica waives the application fee for applicants from the Returned Peace Corp Volunteers. Fellows selected for this specialization will receive \$10,000 tuition waiver for three years of fulltime study. Five units of credit for Peace



Corps Experience in lieu of community fieldwork will be granted if gained in the last 4 years.

Contact: Tracie Teague, Director, Financial Aid, tteague@pacific.edu

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M.A. in Counseling Psychology

The M.A. in Counseling Psychology program offers distinctive and comprehensive training in the art, science, and practice of marriage and family therapy, and professional clinical counseling. As preparation for licensure in Marriage and Family Therapy and Professional Clinical Counseling, this rigorous academic program emphasizes both theoretical understanding and experiential training in clinical skills.

Students in the program pursue two and a half years of coursework in Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Clinical Counseling, Theory and Praxis, and Humanities and Depth Traditions.

Research studies prepare students to explore and contribute to the continuing development of scholarship within the field.

Supervised practicum traineeship provides students the opportunity to apply clinical counseling techniques in a clinical setting. Students continue to learn multi-theoretical perspectives and supervisory styles while working with individuals, couples, families, and groups. Interdisciplinary courses in literature, mythology, religion, and culture deepen students' ability to link archetypal themes to sociopolitical and personal issues in the lives of individuals, families, and communities.

A sense of community is established as new students join a cohort of like-minded students in classes that take place in three-day sessions approximately once each month during fall, winter, and spring quarters, and a seven-day summer session.

Students in the M.A. Counseling Psychology Program learn to:

- Become proficient in theoretical orientations that offer perspective and provide meaning to systemic patterns and human behavior

- Demonstrate process and clinical skills
- Understand and apply evidence-based clinical assessment procedures
- Identify underlying psychological and systemic dynamics of human interaction
- Determine and implement effective interventions and evidence-based treatment plans and demonstrate knowledge of family systems theories and apply understanding to case conceptualization assessment, and treatment in clinical practice
- Enhance client functioning and well-being via multi-culturally sensitive referrals and collaborative treatment team consultations
- Understand individual, systemic, community, political, and biologic aspects of diversity and demonstrate knowledge and respect for diversity
- Assess, diagnose, and treat the symptoms and characteristics of behavioral addictions, substance use, and dependence
- Students are knowledgeable and apply evidence based assessment procedures to client cases and demonstrate awareness of community mental health and diversity related considerations
- Apply current legal and ethical standards and guidelines while working with diverse populations and demonstrate knowledge and application of legal and ethical standards in scholarly work and supervised practicum as they pertain to marriage and family therapy and professional clinical counseling

- Students will identify and integrate systemic depth psychological perspectives of human interaction and demonstrate competence in the field of marriage and family therapy and professional clinical counseling
- Demonstrate an evolving capacity to self-assess and articulate one's own strengths

Admissions Requirements: Applicants must have a bachelor's and/or master's degree from a regionally accredited or state-approved institution of higher learning. The program values individuals whose backgrounds include work in social, religious, or human services; academic training in psychology or the humanities; and experience in personal therapy. Successful applicants will also exhibit a curiosity about the psyche and demonstrate respect for the diversity of life and human experience.

Prospective students are asked to submit an online application at www.pacifica.edu. The fee is waived for Coverdell Program applicants. Other documents to submit include: resume, personal statement, and writing sample to the Office of Admissions. To complete the application file, official sealed transcripts and two letters of recommendation with recommendation forms should be forwarded to Pacifica Graduate Institute by the appropriate parties. Upon the Admissions Committee's review and recommendation, applicants will be invited to an admissions interview.

Admissions Cycle: Priority decision made on June 30; admissions cycle continues based upon space availability. Because there is a limited number of Coverdell Fellow scholarships (two last year), we recommend that you apply early.

Contact: Lori Myers, M.S., Admissions Advisor, lmyers@pacifica.edu, 805-879-7320

Financial Assistance: Pacifica waives the application fee for applicants from the Returned Peace Corp Volunteers. Fellows selected for the Counseling Program will receive \$1,750 per quarter for up to 10 quarters (up to \$17,500 assistance for tuition). Contact: Tracie Teague, Director, Financial Aid, tteague@pacifica.edu

Unique Format



Classes for the Counseling Psychology Program take place in nine three-day sessions, approximately once each month during fall, winter, and spring, and one week in the summer. This format allows students to live in their home communities and travel to campus for three consecutive days each month, nine months a year.

ⁱ Most returned Volunteers fall into this category. If you are unsure of your status, the following guidelines may help.

Satisfactory completion includes the following:

- Volunteers who completed the full two-year tour of Peace Corps service (not more than 90 days of emergency leave)
- Volunteers granted "early close of service"
- Volunteers granted "interrupted service" status because of circumstances beyond their control
- Volunteers who were medically separated