

Postgraduate Diploma in Psychological Counselling

The next stage of the application process is to complete the online Addendum and arrange for two referee reports to be submitted. Your application will not be considered complete until both the Addendum and the two referee reports have been received.

All outstanding items must be submitted by the application closing date of **31 August 2026**.

- Addendum: <https://form.jotform.com/SACAP/addendum-pgdip-pc>
- Referee Report: <https://form.jotform.com/SACAP/referees-report-pgdip-pc>

Please share the link to the referee report with **two** individuals who have the professional and academic knowledge to provide meaningful responses about you. **Please note that family members and friends are not considered suitable referees.** Those you know from a professional or educational environment are best suited to complete the attached reference reports.

It is essential that your referees include your preferred name and surname exactly as you provided in your application. Failure to do so may result in the references not being accurately matched to your application, which could render it incomplete and unsuccessful.

The Addendum is comprehensive and may take some time to complete. We recommend preparing and reviewing your responses to the longer questions before starting the online form. The questions are provided below for your convenience.

- Why are you interested in pursuing the Postgraduate Diploma in Psychological Counselling programme? (Max 200 words)
- What is your understanding of the role Registered Counsellors play in the provision of mental health care services in South Africa? (Max 200 words)
- Provide a brief personal reflection of the key experiences that have shaped you as an individual. (Max 300 words)



Please also read the important information below before completing your application.

Application Submission and Deadlines

- The application closing deadline is 31 August 2026.
- It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all documentation, including the online addendum and referee reports, are submitted by the closing deadline.
- Applicants may only apply and attend the selection process for a single campus.
- Incomplete and/or late applications will not be considered.
- Before applying, it is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that they can fund their studies.
- For information on fees or any other queries, please contact the admissions team:
 - Call SACAP, and ask to speak to an Admissions Officer: 0860 77 11 11
 - Or complete the contact form: <https://www.sacap.edu.za/contact/>

Selection Process

- Applications will be reviewed, and candidates will be notified of the outcome via email by Wednesday, the 28th of September 2026.
- Shortlisted candidates will be invited to a selection week on the campus they applied to.
- Please note and diarise the selection weeks as follows:
 - Johannesburg Campus: Monday, 12 October – Friday, 16 October 2026
 - Cape Town Campus: Monday, 19 October - Friday, 23 October 2026
 - Pretoria Campus: Monday, 26 October – Friday, 30 October 2026
 - Durban Campus: Monday, 2 November - Friday, 6 November
- All shortlisted candidates are expected to be available during their campus selection week. Non-availability will lead to an unsuccessful application.
- After the selection week, the selection committee shall deliberate, and the final outcomes will be communicated to candidates via email during the week following the selection process.
- Please note that SACAP will not provide individual feedback on unsuccessful applications.

Certification

The HPCSA has developed Form 258 for Registered Counsellors, which outlines their areas of competency. In addition, the HPCSA provides comprehensive guidelines on ethical and professional codes of conduct for all health care professionals in South Africa. One such guideline pertains to fitness for purpose. In light of this, please note the following:

- A mental health challenge does not disqualify you from entry into a professional training programme, such as the PGDip (Psychological Counselling).
- However, SACAP has a professional and ethical responsibility to ensure that graduates entering the field are fit for practice in terms of both skills and conduct.
- Therefore, all applicants are encouraged, though not required, to disclose any diagnosed or undiagnosed mental health challenges. Disclosure enables SACAP to provide appropriate



support during training and ensure compliance with the ethical guidelines established by the HPCSA.

All applicants must be aware that:

- All PGDip (Psychological Counselling) students are required to participate in regular progress reviews. If concerns about competency are identified, appropriate interventions and support will be provided to address these concerns.
- SACAP reserves the right to determine a student's competency to graduate and thereby practice as a Registered Counsellor. Accordingly, SACAP may determine that a student is not fit for practice.
- If there are concerns around fitness to practice within the professional scope, SACAP reserves the right to withhold certification until such time as all the requirements for certification have been satisfactorily fulfilled, subject to the existing qualification and registration maximum timeframes.

Foreign national applicants must be aware that:

- Upon successful completion of this programme, you will be eligible to write the independent HPCSA board exam to complete your registration as a Registered Counsellor.
- However, to write the board exam, the HPCSA requires foreign students to either confirm their eligibility to reside and work in South Africa or to provide the HPCSA with proof of employment.

