

International Network
Information about Counseling in Hong Kong

By: Dr. Chan Raymond Mow-Chiu
Associate Professor, Department of Education Studies,
Hong Kong Baptist University & Immediate Past-President,
Hong Kong Professional Counseling Association

1. Number of counselor training programs

1.1. Master Programme (or above)

[Excel file attached have more information](#)

| Institution | Department | Programme | Programme Details |
|---|--|---|---|
| City U | Department of Applied Social Studies | Master of Social Sciences in Counselling (Intermediate Awards: PGC & PGD in Counselling) | http://ssweb.cityu.edu.hk/apss/index.aspx?lang=e&id=20070720151610 |
| Hong Kong Baptist University | Department of Social Work | Master of Social Sciences in Youth Counselling (MSocSc in Youth Counselling) | http://www.hkbu.edu.hk/~sowk/ |
| Hong Kong Shue Yan University in collaboration with the University of New England, Armidale, New South Wales, Australia | Department of Counselling and Psychology | Doctor of Philosophy in the field of Counselling | http://www.hksyu.edu/counpsy/ --> "Programmes" --> "Postgraduate" |
| Hong Kong Poly U | Department of Applied Social Sciences | Master of Arts in Guidance & Counselling | http://www.polyu.edu.hk/apss/v2/default2.php?module=a&pid=15&id=24 |
| The Chinese University of Hong Kong | Department of Education Psychology, Faculty of Education | Master of Arts (MA) in School Guidance and Counselling Programme | http://www.fed.cuhk.edu.hk/handbook/doc~2009/03%20-%20Higher%20Degree%20Programmes/III_A_Overview.pdf |
| The Chinese University of Hong Kong | Department of Social Work | Master of Arts (MA) in Family Counselling and Family Education Programme (Part-time) | http://web.swk.cuhk.edu.hk/Load_postG/P4.htm |
| The University of Hong Kong | Department of Social Work & | Master of Social Sciences in Counselling | http://www.socialwork.hku.hk/html/programmes_and_admissions/MSocS |

| | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--|--|
| | Social Administration | | c/counselling/introduction.htm |
|--|--------------------------|--|--|

1.2. Undergraduate Degree Programme

| Institution | Department | Programme | Programme Details |
|-------------------------------|--|---|---|
| City U | Department of Applied Social Studies | Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Social Work with Minor in Counselling | http://eportal.cityu.edu.hk/bbcswebdav/institution/APPL/Programme/Current/BASWMC.htm |
| Hong Kong Shue Yan University | Department of Counselling and Psychology | BSocSci (Hons) in Counselling & Psychology | in document: "HK Shue Yan University - BSocSci (Hons) in Counselling & Psychology.doc" |
| The University of Hong Kong | Department of Psychology | a variety of psychology courses, from Bachelor to Doctor | http://www3.hku.hk/psychodp/admission/graduate.html |

1.3. Others: e.g., Diploma / Certificate / Short-term Programme

| Institution | Department | Programme | Programme Details |
|---|---|--|---|
| The University of Hong Kong Faculty of Education | Division of Learning, Development and Diversity | Postgraduate Certification in Advanced Educational Studies (Career Education and Counselling) | http://web.edu.hku.hk/programme/pcaes/ |
| HKU SPACE | Social Sciences | Advanced Diploma in Applied Social Sciences (Youth Counselling) (also Advanced Certificate) | http://hkuspace.hku.hk/web_course/show_course.php?code=1751&seq=14&start=0&no_of_course=20&parent_seq=&col=&sort=ASC&keyword= |
| HKU SPACE | | Foundation Certificate in Counselling Drug Abusers | http://hkuspace.hku.hk/web_course/show_course.php?code=1784&seq=3&start=20&no_of_course=20&parent_seq=&col=&sort=ASC&keyword= |
| HKU SPACE | | Hypnosis-Application in Counselling | http://hkuspace.hku.hk/web_course/show_course.php?code=2089&seq=18&start=20&no_of_course=20&parent_seq=&col=&sort=ASC&keyword= |
| HKU SPACE | | Introduction to Counselling | http://hkuspace.hku.hk/web_course/show_course.php?code=918&seq=1&start=40&no_of_course=18&parent_seq=&col=&sort=ASC&keyword= |
| HKU SPACE | | Workshop on Counseling Adolescent Addictive Behaviors | http://hkuspace.hku.hk/web_course/show_course.php?code=771&seq=0&start=0&no_of_course=20&parent_seq=&col=&sort=ASC&keyword= |
| Hong Kong Satir Center (HKSC) for Human Development | | Foundation Counseling Course on Satir Model | http://www.hksatir.org/chinese/program/program2009/FCC-09.pdf |

| | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| Hong Kong Satir Center (HKSC) for Human Development | | Supervision with the Satir Model | http://www.hksatir.org/chinese/program/program2009/SUP-09.pdf |
| Hong Kong Satir Center (HKSC) for Human Development and Satir Institute of the Pacific (SIP) | | Professional Counseling Certificate Course | in document: "Hong Kong Satir Center for Human Development and Satir Institute of the Pacific - Prof Counseling Cert Course.doc" |
| SCE, HKBU | (subject area: psychology) | Counseling Course Series: Crisis Management and Intervention | http://www.sce.hkbu.edu.hk/pgm/by_pgm/short/psc4111.htm |
| SCE, HKBU | (subject area: psychology) | Counseling Course Series: Solution-Focused Therapy | http://www.sce.hkbu.edu.hk/pgm/by_pgm/short/psc4112.htm |
| SCE, HKBU | (subject area: psychology) | Counseling Course Series: Systemic Satir Model Family Therapy | http://www.sce.hkbu.edu.hk/pgm/by_pgm/short/psc4113.htm |
| SCE, HKBU | (subject area: psychology) | Introduction to Counseling and Psychotherapy | http://www.sce.hkbu.edu.hk/pgm/by_pgm/short/psc4110.htm |
| SCE, HKBU | Area: Social Sciences and Education | Professional Diploma in Health Counselling | http://www.sce.hkbu.edu.hk/pgm/by_pgm/certdip/other/pdhc/ |
| School of Continuing & Professional Studies, The Chinese University of Hong Kong | Social Sciences & Public Administration | Certificate Programme in General Counselling (Distance Learning) 基礎輔導證書課程 (遙距學習) | http://www.scs.cuhk.edu.hk/scs/course/soc/soc/ab/doc/093-801200-02?disp=en |
| School of Continuing & Professional Studies, The Chinese University of Hong Kong | Social Sciences & Public Administration | Diploma Programme in General Counselling (Cycle 5) 基礎輔導文憑課程 (第五屆) | http://www.scs.cuhk.edu.hk/scs/course/soc/soc/ab/doc/093-711000-03?disp=en |

2. Level of training to be employed as a counselor (bachelors/masters)

(Most of the information provided here is extracted from Leung (1999))

- Currently in Hong Kong, we do not have a formal “counselor” job title within the government hierarchy. Counselling work has been taken up by different helping professionals in different settings.
- Clinical and educational psychologists are two recognized professionals to provide counseling and mental health services. Both clinical and educational psychologists are trained at master’s level.

- Social workers are also expected to provide counseling and mental health services in a great variety of settings. The majority are degree holders majoring in Social Work. Currently all social workers should register in Social Workers Registration Board.
- In some primary schools, other than clinical psychologists, educational psychologists and social workers, School Guidance Master (SGM) and School Guidance Teachers (SGT) are also appointed as “school counselors” to provide counseling services. They usually served as the coordinator of the school guidance and counseling team, and follow up with all the referral cases from teachers. Concerning qualification of SGM/SGT, both SGM and SGT should process qualified teacher status, and once employed as SGM or SGT, they are required to receive 4-month pre-service training offered by the Education Department.

3. Number of counselors currently working in various settings (by level of training)

No data, sorry

4. Existence of standard counselor training curricula

(Most of the information provided here is extracted from Leung (1999))

Currently in Hong Kong, there is no commonly agreed standard counselor training curricula (Leung, 1999). However, in response to calls from the counselling profession to establish standards of counselling practice, the Hong Kong Professional Counselling Association has established a professional-level membership category “HKPCA Certified Counsellor” in 2007, and recommended the criteria for professional membership in terms of education and training in counselling, as well as post-training supervised experience. The proposal makes recommendations on the minimal academic and professional credentials required of a professional counsellor, and on the basic academic components in counselling that are core to the training of professional counsellors. *(Details will be described in section 5.2.)*

5. Certification/ licensure/ credentialing options for counselors

5.1. Introduction

In Hong Kong, there is very little control over the qualification of private practitioners since Hong Kong does not have certification and licensing laws governing the public practice of counseling

and psychotherapeutic services. Anyone could claim that they have competencies in counseling and call themselves “counselors” (Leung, 1999). The lack of a system of professional credentialing and monitoring will create much confusion within and beyond the profession, and if the public became skeptical of the professionalism of the counselling discipline, the entire discipline might fade into the background, and counselling professionals and training programs in Hong Kong would become the biggest losers (Leung, 1999). Consequently, professional credentialing is an important issue that counselling professional associations (e.g., Hong Kong Professional Counselling Association (HKPCA); Asian Professional Counselling Association (HK) (APCA(HK)) must address promptly and immediately.

Currently, both HKPCA & APCA(HK) have already adopted society-based professional certification systems so as to control the entrance to the counselling profession.

5.2. Membership system of Hong Kong Professional Counselling Association

A double-tier membership system is adopted, which includes “Regular Membership” and “Professional Tier Membership”

5.2.1. Regular Membership

- Fellow: Those who have a Master’s Degree in Counselling or a related field and have ten years of experiences in counselling work (practice/ research/ training) and have been invited by and recommended to the Association;
- Associate Fellow: Those who have a Master’s Degree in Counselling or a related field and have five years of experience in counselling work (practice/ research/ training); or those who have a Bachelor’s Degree in Counselling or a related field and have seven years of experience in counselling work (practice/ research/ training);
- Member: Those who have a Bachelor’s Degree in Counselling or a related field; or Those who have a Diploma in Counselling or a related field equivalent to at least two years full-time study at a tertiary Institute plus five years of experience in counselling or a related field;
- Junior Member: Those who hold a Certificates or Diplomas in counselling plus one year of working experience in a related field;
- Student Member: Those who are currently undergoing training in counselling or in a related field

Affiliate Member: Those who have no training in counselling but are interested in counselling work

** Junior member, Student member, and Affiliate are not entitled to voting right*

5.2.2. Professional membership

HKPCA Certified Counsellor

Other than registered in “Regular Membership” category, HKPCA fellow, associate fellow or member could also apply for professional-tier membership, “HKPCA Certified Counsellor”. The criteria are as follows:

1. The minimum academic level for professional training should be a Master’s degree in counselling or in a counselling-related field (or its equivalence);
2. Content of the master-level degree program (or its equivalent) should include the followings:
 - i. The total number of contact hours of the programme should aggregate at a minimum of 320 hours;
 - ii. The content of the programme should include both “theory” and “practice” component;
 - iii. In the “theory” component, 3 compulsory domain should be included:
 - counselling theories and orientation;
 - helping process and skills; and
 - counselling ethics.

Other than the above three “compulsory component”, at least 3 of the 5 domains listed below should also be included as “required domains”

- human growth and development;
 - social and cultural foundation;
 - measurement and appraisal;
 - program evaluation; and
 - group work
- iv. In the “practice” component, the individual should have accumulated a total of 450 hours of supervised practice of which 150 hours must be subsequent to the completion of training (that is, after graduate training at the level of a master degree in a counselling-related field or its equivalent). In addition, a total of 100 supervision hours must be accumulated, of which 50 hours must be subsequent to the completion

of graduate training. At least 30 percent of the supervision hours have to be individual-based (that is, one-on-one supervision).

HKPCA Approved Supervisor

(The system is under review and will be finalized by Dec 2009)

5.3. Membership system of Asian Professional Counselling Association (Hong Kong)

(Information extracted from APCA official website:

<http://www.apca-counselling.com/en/htm/Membership/Categories.htm>)

Full member: With Degree, Diploma or Certificate major in counselling or equivalent (with voting right);

Associate member: Undergoing counselling training and with interest in counselling (without voting right);

Registered counsellor: Counselling practitioner with honors diploma or above (or overseas equivalent) in counselling or counselling related areas, such as psychology, human services, social work; AND have practised at least 250 hours of counselling with supervision at the time of registration;

Registered clinical supervisor: Postgraduate Certificate or above in Counselling Supervision (or overseas equivalent), OR at least seven years of practical experience in clinical supervision (All supervisors currently on The University of New England's supervisors list would be eligible for registration of Clinical Supervisor). All registered clinical supervisors are automatically given the status of registered counsellors.

6. Professional associations for counselors/to which counselors belong

Two professional associations for counselors in Hong Kong SAR

| Association | Web-site |
|--|---|
| Hong Kong Professional Counselling Association | http://www.hkpca.org.hk/ |
| Asian Professional Counselling Association (Hong Kong) | http://www.apca-counselling.com |

* Asian Professional Counselling Association (Hong Kong) (2007) Annual Report 2007. Hong

Other associations with their own membership registration system

| Association | Web-site |
|--|---|
| Hong Kong Satir Center for Human Development | http://www.hksatir.org |
| EMDR Association of Hong Kong | http://www.hkemdr.org |
| The Hong Kong Association of Art Therapists | http://www.hk-hkaat.org |
| The Chinese Association of Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CACBT) | http://www.cacbt.org |
| Hong Kong University Family Institute | http://hkufi.hku.hk |

7. Conferences within country and region that counselors typically attend

7.1. International conference in Hong Kong SAR

- 2008 July 10-11, Inaugural 2008 Asia Pacific Rim International Counselling Conference
- 2009 (Nil)
- 2010 June 15-19, 2010 Satir World Conference : Synergy for a Peaceful World - Healthy Individual, Happy Family
(<http://www.satir2010.org/web/eng/home.html>)

8. Local Journals in the Counseling Field

Asian Journal of Counselling

Web-site: <http://www.fed.cuhk.edu.hk/en/ajc/>

Description: The *Asian Journal of Counselling* is published biannually by The Hong Kong Professional Counselling Association (HKPCA) and the Hong Kong Institute of Educational Research of The Chinese University of Hong Kong. It is a journal devoted to the extension of knowledge and promotion of communication in the very broad field of counselling.

The journal is dedicated to publishing manuscripts concerned with research, theory development, current professional and scientific issues, new techniques or innovative programmes and practices.

References:

Leung, S.A. (1999). Development of counselling in Hong Kong: Searching for professional identity. *Asian Journal of Counselling*, 6 (2), 77-95.