



## School of Behavioral Sciences at California Southern University

### SCHOOL BACKGROUNDER

#### Who We Are:

[The School of Behavioral Sciences](#) at [California Southern University](#) offers 100% online instruction leading to a BA, MA, MS or PsyD degree. The School's goal is to equip practitioners with the knowledge and skills to promote wellness and mental health in individuals, families and communities. CalSouthern Behavioral Sciences graduates provide mental health care with professional character, clinical competencies, ethical decision-making and cultural humility.

#### Degrees Offered:

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology (BA)  
Master of Arts in Psychology w/ Emphasis in Marriage and Family  
Therapy (MA)  
Master of Science in Psychology (MS)  
Doctor of Psychology (PsyD)

#### Certificates Offered:

Addiction Studies (CPAS)  
Advanced Addiction Studies (CPAAS)  
Healthcare Services (CPHCS)  
Industrial and Organizational Psychology (CPIOP)  
Pastoral Counseling (CPPC)  
Sport Psychology (CPSP)

#### School Leadership:

**Melanie Shaw, PhD**  
**Dean, School of Behavioral Sciences**

Melanie Shaw, PhD has spent the past two decades teaching and serving in faculty and administrator roles in online higher education settings. She has trained faculty to develop and deliver courses online, conducted research on topics related to nontraditional education, and is involved in strategic leadership relative to the vision for online education. She is the author of several books, articles, and chapters and is the winner of the Wagner Award for Outstanding Instructional Support and the Online Learning Consortium's Effective Practice Award.

Melanie received a PhD in Education with a specialization in Curriculum and Teaching, a M.Ed in Education Administration, and a MS in School Counseling. She received her BS in Liberal Studies and Music. She holds teaching certificates in online teaching, elementary education, and school counseling.



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**Distinctions:**

- Relevant and practical instruction leading to degrees that equip graduates to promote wellness and mental health in working with diverse populations.
- *Ripples in Research* series features CalSouthern alumni presenting research. The *Cultivating Clinical Skills* series promotes faculty areas of clinical expertise and provides skill development for clinicians-in-training.
- Doctoral Project Support Events include *Navigating the Doctoral Project*, *Write Day* and *Boot Camp*.
- Program touchpoints provide timely information and support in pursuing degrees and include orientations to the Doctoral Project, Defense Preparation, MA Program Overview, and MA Practicum Preparedness.
- Multiple *Clinical Case Conferences* are offered on a weekly basis by directors of clinical training.
- Every learner is assigned an academic advisor and one or several faculty mentors who possess exceptional teaching credentials and firsthand, real-world, frontline experience. Faculty mentors are highly accessible and provide learners with one-on-one advice and support.
- Accreditation and approvals for licensure include the Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS), Board of Psychology (BOP), California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals (CCAPP) and the National Association for Addiction Professionals (NAADAC).

**Media Contacts:**

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