



COURSE INFORMATION GUIDE

CPCAB Counselling Training • Level 2 to Level 4

Live online and face-to-face training in Dorset

Grow within. Help beyond.
Supportive, experiential counselling training with a clear progression pathway.

For current course dates, times, locations and availability: www.sw-sc.co.uk

Welcome

Thank you for considering South West School of Counselling. We offer CPCAB counselling training from Level 2 through to Level 4, with live online learning and selected face-to-face courses in Dorset.

Our teaching is supportive and experiential. Learners develop counselling knowledge alongside practical skills, self-awareness, reflection and personal development.

Why train with us?

- Small, supportive learning groups
- Experienced counselling professionals as tutors
- Live, interactive teaching and practical skills development
- Online and face-to-face options
- A structured CPCAB progression pathway
- Payment plans available

The CPCAB pathway

LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4
Certificate in Counselling Skills Foundation skills and self-awareness	Certificate in Counselling Studies Develop theory, skills and readiness for practitioner training	Diploma in Therapeutic Counselling Professional practitioner training with supervised client work

Progression to each level is subject to meeting the relevant entry requirements. Level 3 does not, on its own, qualify a learner to practise as a counsellor.

CPCAB Level 2 Certificate in Counselling Skills

Level 2 is the usual starting point for learners beginning the CPCAB counselling pathway. It introduces counselling skills, ethical awareness, theory, self-awareness and reflective learning.

Current 2026/27 standard course information

Route	Duration	Tuition	Deposit
Standard Level 2	30 weeks	£800	£200
Fast Track Level 2	18 weeks	£900	£200

CPCAB registration fee: Payable separately at the start of the relevant qualification/academic level. Certification is included.

Dates and availability change, so please check the [Level 2 course page](#) for the latest online, Ferndown, Christchurch and Fast Track options.

CPCAB Level 3 Certificate in Counselling Studies

Level 3 builds on an appropriate Level 2 counselling skills qualification. It develops counselling theory, ethical practice, self-awareness, the therapeutic relationship and preparation for further professional training.

Route	Duration	Tuition	Deposit
Standard Level 3	30 weeks	£950	£200
Fast Track Level 3	18 weeks	£1,050	£200

CPCAB registration fee: Payable separately at the start of the relevant qualification/academic level. Certification is included.

See the [Level 3 course page](#) for current dates, times, delivery options and availability.

Combined CPCAB Level 2 & Level 3 Fast Track

The combined programme allows learners to complete Level 2 and Level 3 as one continuous 36-week training route. Current advertised options include live online and selected face-to-face delivery.

Duration	36 weeks
Tuition	£1,900
Deposit	£400
Registration fees	Payable for both levels at the relevant stage

Check the [Level 2 course page](#) or [Level 3 course page](#) for the latest Combined Fast Track dates.

CPCAB Level 4 Diploma in Therapeutic Counselling

Level 4 is professional practitioner training and includes supervised counselling practice within an appropriate placement. Applicants will need a recognised Level 3 Certificate in Counselling Studies or equivalent and must demonstrate readiness for professional and self-reflective training.

Duration	2 years: 38 weeks per year
Delivery	In person
Tuition	£2,995 per year
Deposit	£495
CPCAB registration fee	Payable at the start of each year

Current advertised locations are Christchurch and Ferndown, depending on intake. Level 4 includes placement/client work and support with preparing for and securing an appropriate placement.

For current Level 4 dates, status, locations and availability, always check the [Level 4 course page](#).

How you will learn

Our online courses are live and tutor-led rather than independent distance learning. Teaching may include:

- Tutor-led teaching and discussion
- Counselling skills practice and triads
- Experiential activities and demonstrations
- Theory linked to counselling practice
- Personal reflection and self-awareness work
- Portfolio/workbook activities
- Peer and tutor feedback

Entry and progression

Level 2: No previous counselling qualification is normally required.

Level 3: Applicants need an appropriate Level 2 counselling skills qualification. Previous qualifications are reviewed to ensure they include suitable experiential skills practice and prepare the learner for Level 3.

Level 4: Applicants need a recognised Level 3 Certificate in Counselling Studies or equivalent, alongside readiness for professional training.

Successful completion of the relevant CPCAB qualifications supports progression through the pathway, but entry to the next stage is subject to the receiving training provider's requirements.

How to apply

1. Request and complete an application form
2. Attend a short informal interview
3. Receive an offer if the course is suitable
4. Pay the relevant deposit to secure your place
5. Receive joining information before the course starts

Fees and payment plans

Payment plans are available. CPCAB registration fees are separate from tuition and are due at the relevant stage of the qualification. Course fees, registration fees and deposits can change between academic years, so the individual course page should always be treated as the current source for pricing.

Keep this guide – check the website for live course dates

This guide explains the course pathway and current published fees. Start dates, class times, venues and availability change throughout the year. Use the links below for the latest information before applying or making payment.

- [Level 2 – dates, fees and delivery](#)
- [Level 3 – dates, fees and delivery](#)
- [Level 4 – dates, fees, locations and status](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Contact / course enquiry](#)

Frequently asked questions

Can I study online?

Yes. SW-SC currently offers live online Level 2 and Level 3 courses. Selected face-to-face courses are also available in Dorset.

Where are face-to-face courses held?

Depending on the intake, face-to-face training is offered in the Christchurch and Ferndown area.

Do I need a placement?

Supervised client work in an appropriate placement is an essential part of Level 4 practitioner training.

Can I pay monthly?

Payment plans are available; contact the school for the plan applicable to your course.

Contact us

South West School of Counselling

Telephone: 01202 775015

Email: info@sw-sc.co.uk

Website: www.sw-sc.co.uk

We will be happy to help you identify the most appropriate starting point and current course option.