

Doctor of Christian Counseling & Psychology, Minor in Clinical Mental Health Counseling

HBI University

Course Duration: 3 Years

Total Credit Hours: 105

Program Description

The Doctor of Christian Counseling & Psychology at HBI University equips experienced practitioners to integrate Christian theology with psychological science in advanced counseling practice. This degree prepares graduates for leadership in pastoral counseling, faith-based clinical settings, and Christian mental health education.

Students explore advanced psychotherapy, spiritual formation, biblical counseling ethics, and diagnostic skills for emotional and behavioral health. The curriculum emphasizes healing grounded in scriptural principles, spiritual discernment, and professional competency.

The Minor in Clinical Mental Health Counseling ensures students are prepared for licensure standards and secular contexts. It covers clinical interventions, case management, and evidence-based care strategies for diverse mental health disorders. This dual focus bridges theology and mental science for comprehensive client care.

Admissions Requirements

- Master's degree in Counseling, Psychology, Divinity, or Theology
- Demonstrated pastoral or clinical experience (minimum 2 years preferred)
- GPA of 3.5 or higher in graduate coursework
- Statement of Purpose (1,000–1,500 words) addressing integration of faith and practice
- Letters of recommendation (3: pastoral, academic, clinical)
- CV or résumé and sample sermon, case study, or counseling session (optional)
- Interview with department faculty and faith integration committee

Practicum Experience

Doctoral candidates complete supervised counseling hours in Christian therapy centers, churches, or integrated behavioral health settings. Clients may include individuals, couples, families, or groups with spiritual and emotional concerns.

Practicum Requirements:

- 600 hours of documented counseling under licensed or ordained supervision
- Supervision hours, case log, spiritual assessments, and client evaluations

- Peer feedback and spiritual direction reflection log
- Capstone presentation of integrated faith and clinical model

Doctoral Thesis

The dissertation requires students to develop a counseling model, clinical intervention, or case-based study that integrates Christian theology and evidence-based mental health practice.

Thesis Requirements:

- Research proposal including theological and clinical framework
- Case study, experimental, or qualitative methodology
- Minimum 100-page manuscript with scripture engagement and ethical review
- Thesis defense before a theological-clinical advisory panel
- Publication in pastoral care or Christian psychology journals encouraged

Program Outcomes

Graduates will:

- Provide biblically grounded and clinically competent counseling services
- Teach Christian counseling in seminaries, colleges, or churches
- Integrate prayer, scripture, and psychological care in therapy
- Contribute to research in Christian mental health models
- Lead faith-based mental health clinics and counseling ministries

Core Foundational Courses (60 Credit Hours)

Course Code	Course Name	Credit Hours
CCP 801	Christian Foundations of Counseling Psychology	3
CCP 802	Biblical Theology and Pastoral Counseling	3
CCP 803	Integration of Psychology and Christian Worldview	3
CCP 804	Ethical and Legal Issues in Faith-Based Counseling	3
CCP 805	Advanced Skills in Christian Marriage Counseling	3
CCP 806	Faith-Informed Cognitive Behavioral Therapy	3
CCP 807	Group Counseling with Christian Themes	3
CCP 808	Developmental and Spiritual Psychology	3
CCP 809	Christian Trauma Care and Grief Counseling	3
CCP 810	Addiction Recovery in Christian Contexts	3

CCP 811	Psychological Assessment in Christian Practice	3
CCP 812	Prayer, Discernment, and Spiritual Interventions	3
CCP 813	Personality Theory and Christian Anthropology	3
CCP 814	Gender and Family Counseling in Faith Communities	3
CCP 815	Pastoral Crisis Intervention	3
CCP 816	Biblical Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation	3
CCP 817	Mental Health Ministry in Church Settings	3
CCP 818	Apologetics and Psychological Worldviews	3
CCP 819	Research in Christian Counseling	3
CCP 820	Capstone Integration Seminar	3

Minor in Clinical Mental Health Counseling (15 Credit Hours)

Course Code	Course Name	Credit Hours
CMH 801	Advanced Diagnosis and DSM Applications	3
CMH 802	Evidence-Based Treatment Planning	3
CMH 803	Crisis and Suicidality Interventions	3
CMH 804	Multicultural Competence in Mental Health	3
CMH 805	Clinical Documentation and Case Management	3

Specialized Electives (15 Credit Hours)

Course Code	Course Name	Credit Hours
ELE 801	Neuroscience and Spirituality	3
ELE 802	Faith-Based Mediation and Pastoral Coaching	3
ELE 803	Child and Adolescent Christian Counseling	3
ELE 804	Chaplaincy Models in Healthcare	3
ELE 805	Technology and Online Christian Counseling	3

Research, Dissertation, and Defense (15 Credit Hours)

Course Code	Course Name	Credit Hours
DISS 901	Doctoral Research Foundations	3
DISS 902	Faith-Based Methodology and Ethics	3
DISS 903	Thesis Proposal Development	3
DISS 904	Dissertation Writing and Review	3
DISS 905	Oral Defense and Ministry Panel Review	3

Career Outcomes and Potential Pay Scale

Career Path	Average Salary (Annual)
Licensed Christian Counselor	\$85,000 – \$135,000
Director of Church Counseling Ministry	\$75,000 – \$120,000
Professor of Christian Psychology	\$90,000 – \$140,000
Faith-Based Therapist and Author	\$80,000 – \$130,000
Spiritual Care and Trauma Specialist	\$85,000 – \$125,000

Dissertation Outline

1. Introduction

- Scriptural and clinical rationale
- Research purpose and theological framework

2. Literature Review

- Faith-integrated therapy models
- Biblical and psychological theory alignment

3. Methodology

- Study design and spiritual inquiry
- Clinical ethics and participant protections

4. Results

- Case analysis, themes, or data
- Observed therapeutic outcomes

5. Discussion

- Theological insights from results

- Counseling implications for faith-based clients

6. Conclusion

- Contributions to field and future exploration

7. References and Appendices