

Associate in Psychology

Specialization in Faith-Based Mental Health Advocacy

HBI University

Course Duration: 2 years

Credit Hours: 75 hours (including 15 minor credit hours)

Program Description

The Associate in Psychology program with a Specialization in Faith-Based Mental Health Advocacy prepares students to understand psychological principles through the lens of Christian compassion, ethics, and service. This program equips students to be advocates for mental health in churches, communities, and faith-based organizations.

Students explore foundational psychological theories, human development, and counseling approaches while integrating faith, healing, and advocacy. Emphasis is placed on trauma awareness, crisis intervention, and ethical communication to foster emotional and spiritual wellness.

Graduates may pursue roles in mental health outreach, community care ministries, or continue their education in psychology, counseling, or theology.

General Education Courses (15 Credit Hours)

Course Code	Course Name	Credit Hours
GEN 101	English Composition I	3
GEN 102	English Composition II	3
GEN 103	College Algebra	3
GEN 104	Introduction to Psychology	3
GEN 105	Introduction to Sociology	3

Core Psychology Courses (30 Credit Hours)

Course Code	Course Name	Credit Hours
PSY 201	Introduction to Psychology	3
PSY 202	Human Growth and Development	3

PSY 203	Theories of Personality	3
PSY 204	Abnormal Psychology	3
PSY 205	Trauma and Crisis Intervention	3
PSY 206	Christian Counseling Principles	3
PSY 207	Psychological Research Methods	3
PSY 208	Cultural and Social Psychology	3
PSY 209	Psychology of Spiritual Formation	3
PSY 210	Internship in Mental Health Ministry	3

Elective Courses (15 Credit Hours)

Course Code	Course Name	Credit Hours
PSY 301	Addiction and Recovery Counseling	3
PSY 302	Faith and Mental Health Stigma Reduction	3
PSY 303	Peer Counseling and Support Groups	3
PSY 304	Ethics and Boundaries in Faith-Based Counseling	3
PSY 305	Family Systems and Spiritual Wellbeing	3

Minor in Faith-Based Mental Health Advocacy (15 Credit Hours)

Course Code	Course Name	Credit Hours
FMH 401	Theology of Healing and Restoration	3

FMH 402	Mental Health Ministry in the Church	3
FMH 403	Advocacy and Public Education for Emotional Wellness	3
FMH 404	Trauma-Informed Discipleship and Community Support	3
FMH 405	Prayer, Presence, and the Role of the Church in Mental Health	3

Capstone Project (3 Credit Hours)

The Capstone in Faith-Based Mental Health Advocacy allows students to develop a community-based mental health initiative or church program. Project options include:

- Designing a church wellness and peer support group model.
- Creating a mental health awareness curriculum for youth ministries.
- Planning a mental health resource hub or advocacy campaign.

Program Outcomes

- Understand psychological concepts from a biblical worldview.
- Support mental wellness in church and community settings.
- Serve as advocates for emotional healing and spiritual care.
- Collaborate with ministry leaders and counselors to support hurting populations.
- Lead or assist faith-based wellness initiatives.

Career Outcomes and Potential Pay Scale

Career Path	Average Salary (Annual)
Mental Health Ministry Coordinator	\$44,000 - \$60,000
Faith-Based Counseling Assistant	\$42,000 - \$58,000
Wellness Program Developer	\$45,000 - \$62,000
Church Support Group Leader	\$41,000 - \$55,000

Advocacy and Outreach Specialist	\$46,000 - \$63,000
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