

Master in Psychology - Minor in Faith-Based Mental Health Advocacy

HBI University

Course Duration: 2 years

Credit Hours: 69 (including 15 credit hours for minor)



Program Description

The Master in Psychology at HBI University is designed for students who seek to develop expertise in psychological research, counseling, and behavioral analysis. This program integrates cognitive science, clinical intervention, and mental health advocacy to prepare graduates for careers in therapy, research, counseling, and faith-based mental health services.

The Minor in Faith-Based Mental Health Advocacy provides a specialized focus on integrating faith and psychology to address emotional and spiritual well-being. Students will explore Christian counseling principles, the intersection of faith and mental health, and strategies for supporting mental wellness in religious and community settings.

This 69-credit hour program includes 30 credit hours of foundational psychology courses, 24 credit hours of core counseling and mental health training, 15 credit hours in Faith-Based Mental Health Advocacy, elective coursework, a supervised practicum, and a research-based master's thesis or capstone project.

Admissions Requirements

- Bachelor's degree in psychology, social work, counseling, or a related field
- Minimum GPA of 3.0
- Two letters of recommendation from faculty or mental health professionals
- Statement of purpose outlining career goals in psychology and faith-based mental health advocacy
- Writing sample or research proposal (optional)
- Interview with faculty committee (if required)

Practicum Requirement

Students must complete a 300-hour supervised practicum in mental health clinics, faith-based counseling centers, nonprofit mental health initiatives, or community outreach programs. Practicum placements include church counseling ministries, Christian therapy organizations, and nonprofit mental health advocacy groups.

Master's Thesis / Capstone Project

Students must complete either a research-based master's thesis on mental health disorders, faith-based interventions, or trauma counseling, or develop a capstone project focusing on mental health advocacy in religious or community settings.

Program Outcomes

Graduates of this program will be able to:

- Develop and apply counseling techniques that integrate faith and psychological science.
- Analyze and address mental health challenges from a holistic perspective.
- Provide faith-based mental health support for individuals, families, and communities.
- Conduct research on the role of spirituality in psychological well-being.
- Advocate for mental health awareness in religious organizations and faith communities.

Career Outcomes & Potential Salary

- Clinical Psychologist & Faith-Based Therapist – \$75,000 - \$160,000
- Mental Health Advocate & Policy Researcher – \$65,000 - \$145,000
- Director of Church Counseling Ministries – \$70,000 - \$150,000
- Christian Counselor & Pastoral Care Specialist – \$60,000 - \$130,000
- Nonprofit Mental Health Program Manager – \$80,000 - \$170,000

Advocacy and Professional Development

Students are encouraged to join organizations such as:

- American Psychological Association (APA)
- Christian Counseling & Psychological Association
- National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)
- Faith-Based Trauma & Mental Health Network

Participation in mental health advocacy summits, counseling workshops, and interfaith mental wellness initiatives is highly recommended.

Course Breakdown (Total: 69 Credit Hours)

A. Foundational Psychology Courses (30 Credit Hours)

Course Code	Course Name	Credit Hours
PSYC-101	Introduction to Psychological Theories & Applications	3

PSYC-102	Human Development & Behavioral Psychology	3
PSYC-103	Cognitive Psychology & Neuroscience	3
PSYC-104	Social Psychology & Community Well-Being	3
PSYC-105	Clinical Psychology & Mental Health Interventions	3
PSYC-106	Research Methods in Psychology	3
PSYC-107	Trauma & Crisis Intervention	3
PSYC-108	Addiction Psychology & Faith-Based Recovery Models	3
PSYC-109	Psychological Ethics & Professional Standards	3
PSYC-110	The Psychology of Faith & Spiritual Growth	3

B. Core Counseling and Mental Health Training (24 Credit Hours)

Course Code	Course Name	Credit Hours
PSYC-201	Marriage & Family Therapy from a Christian Perspective	3
PSYC-202	Pastoral Counseling & Spiritual Care	3
PSYC-203	Cognitive Behavioral Therapy & Faith-Based Techniques	3
PSYC-204	Emotional Intelligence & Faith Development	3
PSYC-205	Psychological First Aid & Crisis Counseling	3
PSYC-206	Faith & Trauma Recovery	3
PSYC-207	Depression, Anxiety, & Mental Health in Faith Communities	3
PSYC-208	Supervised Counseling Practicum	3

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

Course Code	Course Name	Credit Hours
FBMH-301	Biblical Counseling Principles & Techniques	3
FBMH-302	The Church's Role in Mental Health Awareness	3

FBMH-303	Mindfulness & Spiritual Practices in Therapy	3
FBMH-304	Mental Health Advocacy & Faith-Based Outreach	3
FBMH-305	Ethical Considerations in Christian Counseling	3

D. Electives (9 Credit Hours)

Course Code	Course Name	Credit Hours
ELEC-2401	Integrating Psychology & Theology in Therapy	3
ELEC-2402	Faith-Based Mental Health Policy & Reform	3
ELEC-2403	Applied Positive Psychology & Spiritual Resilience	3