

Associate in Pastoral Care

Specialization in Faith-Based Pastoral Care and Ministry

HBI University

Course Duration: 2 years

Credit Hours: 60 hours (including 15 credit specialization hours)

Program Description

The Associate in Pastoral Care program with a Specialization in Faith-Based Pastoral Care and Ministry at HBI University is designed to equip students with the spiritual, emotional, and leadership skills needed to serve individuals and communities through compassionate care and biblical guidance. The program blends theological study with practical ministry skills to prepare students for roles in churches, hospitals, prisons, and nonprofit organizations.

Students will study pastoral counseling, spiritual formation, crisis response, and ministry ethics, while also exploring the biblical foundations of caregiving. Emphasis is placed on understanding diverse needs, fostering healing, and leading with empathy, humility, and spiritual authority.

Graduates will be equipped to serve as lay counselors, pastoral assistants, outreach leaders, and caregivers within ministry and community contexts, embodying faith in action through compassionate service.

This program is ideal for those called to pastoral ministry and spiritual caregiving roles that require sensitivity, biblical understanding, and emotional intelligence.

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 Pastoral Care Courses (30 Credit Hours)

Course Code	Course Name	Credit Hours
PC 201	Introduction to Pastoral Care	3
PC 202	Biblical Counseling Principles	3
PC 203	Spiritual Formation and Christian Living	3
PC 204	Ethics and Boundaries in Ministry	3
PC 205	Crisis and Trauma Response in Ministry	3
PC 206	Ministry to the Grieving and Suffering	3
PC 207	Family Systems and Pastoral Leadership	3
PC 208	Cross-Cultural Ministry and Diversity	3
PC 209	Church Administration and Team Development	3
PC 210	Listening and Communication for Ministers	3

Elective Courses (15 Credit Hours)

Course Code	Course Name	Credit Hours
PC 301	Pastoral Ministry to Youth and Young Adults	3
PC 302	Hospital and Hospice Ministry	3
PC 303	Addiction Recovery and Pastoral Care	3

PC 304	Ministry in Correctional Facilities	3
PC 305	Conflict Management in Church Settings	3

Specialization in Faith-Based Pastoral Care and Ministry (15 Credit Hours)

Course Code	Course Name	Credit Hours
FPC 401	Theology of Care and Compassion	3
FPC 402	Practical Chaplaincy and Community Outreach	3
FPC 403	Developing Care Ministries in the Church	3
FPC 404	Prayer and Healing in Pastoral Practice	3
FPC 405	Faith-Based Support Groups and Small Groups	3

Capstone Project (3 Credit Hours)

The Capstone in Faith-Based Pastoral Care and Ministry allows students to demonstrate what they've learned through hands-on experience. Students may:

- Complete a supervised practicum in a ministry care setting.
- Develop a care ministry program for a church or nonprofit.
- Conduct a research project on a biblical model of pastoral care.

Program Outcomes

Graduates of this program will:

- Provide pastoral care informed by scripture, empathy, and ethical practice.
- Offer spiritual and emotional support in diverse ministry settings.
- Develop and lead faith-based care initiatives.
- Communicate effectively with individuals in crisis.
- Demonstrate leadership and teamwork in pastoral contexts.

Career Outcomes and Potential Pay Scale

Career Path	Average Salary (Annual)
Pastoral Assistant	\$38,000 - \$52,000

Church Outreach Coordinator	\$40,000 - \$55,000
Hospital or Hospice Ministry Leader	\$42,000 - \$60,000
Care Ministry Program Director	\$45,000 - \$65,000
Lay Counselor or Ministry Leader	\$40,000 - \$58,000