

Master of Divinity, Major in Clinical Mental Health Counseling

HBI University

Course Duration: 2 years

Credit Hours: 69 (including major)



Program Description

This program is designed for individuals seeking to integrate theological education with professional clinical mental health counseling.

It prepares students for pastoral roles, chaplaincy, or licensed counseling careers, equipping them to address mental health concerns within faith-based settings.

Students will engage in a rigorous curriculum that combines biblical studies, pastoral care, ethical considerations, and advanced clinical counseling methodologies.

The program ensures that graduates are well-prepared for both theological ministry and the complexities of mental health care.

Admissions Requirements

- Bachelor's degree in theology, psychology, or a related field
- Minimum GPA of 3.0
- Two letters of recommendation from clergy or faculty
- Personal statement outlining vocational goals
- Interview with the faculty admissions committee

Practicum Requirement

Students are required to complete a 300-hour supervised practicum in a mental health facility, faith-based counseling center, or chaplaincy setting.

This practical experience provides real-world exposure to pastoral care and clinical mental health counseling under professional supervision.

Master's Thesis

A research-based master's thesis is required, focusing on the intersection of theology and clinical counseling, exploring best practices for integrating faith-based principles into mental health services. The thesis should be between 60-100 pages, follow APA formatting, and contribute to theological or counseling scholarship.

Program Outcomes

- Integrate biblical teachings with clinical mental health practices.
- Provide faith-based psychological support in churches, hospitals, and counseling centers.
- Develop pastoral care strategies that address emotional and psychological needs.
- Demonstrate knowledge of ethical and legal considerations in pastoral counseling.
- Prepare for professional chaplaincy and faith-based counseling licensure.

Foundational Courses (30 Credit Hours)

Course Code	Course Title	Credit Hours
MDV 6001	Biblical Foundations for Counseling	3
MDV 6002	Systematic Theology	3
MDV 6003	History of Christianity	3
MDV 6004	Ethics in Ministry	3
MDV 6005	Pastoral Counseling	3
MDV 6006	Spiritual Formation	3
MDV 6007	Theology and Mental Health	3
MDV 6008	Christian Leadership in Crisis	3
MDV 6009	Research Methods in Divinity	3
MDV 6010	Homiletics and Preaching	3

Core Courses (24 Credit Hours)

Course Code	Course Title	Credit Hours
MDV 6101	Clinical Techniques for Pastoral Care	3
MDV 6102	Crisis and Trauma Counseling	3
MDV 6103	Counseling Diverse Populations	3
MDV 6104	Advanced Family and Marriage Counseling	3
MDV 6105	Mental Health and Spiritual Well-Being	3
MDV 6106	Psychopathology in Ministry	3
MDV 6107	Supervised Clinical Mental Health Practicum	3
MDV 6108	Capstone Ministry Integration Project	3

Clinical Mental Health Counseling Major (15 Credit Hours)

Course Code	Course Title	Credit Hours
CMH 6201	Psychopathology and Diagnosis	3
CMH 6202	Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Ministry	3
CMH 6203	Substance Abuse and Addiction Counseling	3
CMH 6204	Neuroscience and Faith-Based Healing	3
CMH 6205	Ethical Issues in Faith-Based Counseling	3

Career Outcomes and Potential Salary

- Pastoral Counselor – \$50,000-\$90,000
- Licensed Mental Health Counselor (Faith-Based) – \$60,000-\$110,000
- Hospital Chaplain (Mental Health Focus) – \$55,000-\$105,000

Advocacy and Professional Development

Graduates are encouraged to obtain professional chaplaincy certification through organizations such as the Association of Professional Chaplains (APC) or National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC).

Participation in faith-based mental health initiatives is recommended for professional development and networking.

Additional Electives (9 Credit Hours)

Course Code	Course Title	Credit Hours
ELE 901	Pastoral Counseling and Chaplaincy	3
ELE 902	Theological Foundations of Mental Health	3
ELE 903	Crisis Intervention in Faith-Based Settings	3
ELE 904	Spiritual Direction and Trauma Recovery	3
ELE 905	Clinical Ethics in Christian Counseling	3