

MASTER OF ARTS CHRISTIAN COUNSELING

This degree prepares graduates for a specialized ministry of counseling within the context of the church, church-related agencies, or other professional settings. Students learn how to integrate effective models and theories of counseling with a sound biblical and theological perspective and a sensitivity to the operation of the Holy Spirit. Helping hurting people is an essential element of the Gospel, and this program equips students to help people realize wholeness in every area of life.

The objectives of the Master of Arts in Christian Counseling are to:

- Enable students to develop a cohesive theology of counseling with theological reflection on the complexities of the counseling process, emphasizing Spirit-directed change
- Introduce and demonstrate a variety of appropriate assessment techniques
- Train students in the art and science of diagnosis that includes both clinical (DSM-IV-TR) and theoretical components
- Provide guided internship opportunities for the application of theory and practice in professional settings with special emphasis on articulating/cultivating therapeutic relationships in which treatment plans can be effectively implemented
- Instruct students in basic research skills and methodologies that enable them to critique counseling research findings and to appraise Empirically Supported Treatments (EST)
- Emphasize the ethical principles undergirding professional conduct and the process of ethical decision-making
- Prepare candidates with a foundational knowledge of the content of Scripture within its cultural and historical context with application to selected contemporary situations
- Promote a biblical/theological understanding of the person, work, and ministry of the Holy Spirit
- Enable students to articulate clearly their ministry/professional calling
- Enable students to demonstrate in writing the ability to synthesize essential elements of academics/clinical experience (theory, research, theology) into a personal counseling philosophy

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

- Bachelor's degree from regionally accredited college or university or a college recognized by The Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE)
- Cumulative undergraduate grade point average of 2.5 or higher
- Miller Analogies Test (MAT) minimum score of 396 or Graduate Record Exam (GRE) minimum combined score of 900 for verbal and quantitative sections
- For those whose language of instruction was not English, Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL): score of 550 paper-based, 213 computer-based, 79-80 internet-based or the IELTS (minimum band score of 7.0), and submit a score within the past two years

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS [64 CREDIT HOURS*]

- ORU Requirements (3 credit hours)
- Biblical and Theological Foundations (19 credit hours)
- Professional Counselor and Applications (42 credit hours)

ACCREDITATION

- Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada (ATS)
- The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association (NCA) of Colleges and Schools

Detailed information is available at: www.gradtheology.oru.edu

*The additional 15 credit hours of coursework is required in order to fulfill requirements for licensure in most states. Prior to taking Counseling Practicum and Counseling Internship, a student must pass an objective competency exam. If the exam is not passed, the degree can be completed, but the student will not be license eligible.