

Master of Science, Professional Counseling

Program Description:

The M.S. in Professional Counseling is a 60-semester-hour degree that will academically prepare students to become licensed mental health counselors. Students will learn how to sensitively address the emotional, mental, and spiritual needs of hurting people, while maintaining a commitment to professional practice and service. In an educational environment that promotes active learning through the use of role-plays, case studies, demonstrations, and discussions students will:

- Integrate Christian belief and practice with the scholarship and professional standards of the mental health field.
- Develop the skills necessary to provide competent, balanced, and professional counseling services.
- Develop critical thinking and analysis skills and the knowledge needed to make ethical decisions.

Program Objectives:

- Integrate the principles of counseling with biblically informed values.
- Demonstrate collaborative and effective problem-solving skills using multiple theoretical approaches.
- Develop counseling skills that require the application of theory to a variety of counseling situations and settings.
- Apply acquired skills and techniques to actual counseling situations.
- Research contemporary issues in counseling to provide practical solutions, and communicate results through clear, concise and appropriate media.

Additional Requirements:

- Written essay describing the current and future impact of your faith in your personal and professional life and the reason for your desire to pursue this degree.
- Proof of a minimum GPA of 3.0 earned from a regionally accredited institution
- Resume
- Official college transcripts
- Professional Reference
- Academic Reference
- Christian Character Reference

Potential Career Options:

Those successfully completing the Master in Professional Counseling (MSPC) may serve as mental health professionals in various career roles including but not limited to:

- Counselors and Therapists in a variety of inpatient (residential) and outpatient settings including:
- Public and Private Mental Health Centers and Clinics
- Substance Abuse Treatment Facilities
- Private Counseling Practices
- Psychiatric Hospitals
- Church-based Counseling Centers
- Wellness Centers
- Healthcare Facilities and Clinic
- Schools and Universities

*Clinical Supervisors for Mental Health Professionals in various disciplines

*Educators and Treatment Team members

The Master of Science in Professional Counseling degree is a licensure preparation program for those who wish to become Licensed Mental Health Counselors (LMHCs in Florida) or Licensed Professional Counselors (LPCs as designated in some other states). In order to obtain such licensure, candidates must apply and meet full requirements of the Board of Licensed Clinical Social Work, Mental Health Counseling and Marriage and Family Therapy of the state of Florida or the equivalent counselor regulatory board in another state.

The minimum GPA requirement is 3.0. Grades of less than C- will not be counted toward degree completion.

[Master of Science, Professional Counseling Two Year Plan](#)

Professional Counseling Required Courses - 60 hours

- [PCOU 5003 - FOUNDATIONS OF COUNSELING](#) Credits: 3
- [PCOU 5013 - COUNSELING THEORIES AND PRACTICE](#) Credits: 3
- [PCOU 5023 - RESEARCH METHODS](#) Credits: 3
- [PCOU 5033 - GROUP THEORY AND COUNSELING](#) Credits: 3
- [PCOU 5043 - COUNSELING SKILLS LAB](#) Credits: 3
- [PCOU 5053 - HUMAN GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT](#) Credits: 3
- [PCOU 5063 - COMMUNITY COUNSELING](#) Credits: 3
- [PCOU 5073 - PROFESSIONAL ETHICS](#) Credits: 3
- [PCOU 5083 - PSYCHOPATHOLOGY: DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT](#) Credits: 3
- [PCOU 5093 - HUMAN SEXUALITY](#) Credits: 3
- [PCOU 5113 - INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION & ASSESSMENT](#) Credits: 3
- [PCOU 5123 - COUNSELING SPECIAL POPULATIONS AND GROUPS](#) Credits: 3
- [PCOU 5133 - CAREER AND LIFESTYLE DEVELOPMENT](#) Credits: 3
- [PCOU 5143 - SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELING](#) Credits: 3
- [PCOU 5153 - TRAUMA, DISASTER, & CRISIS COUNSELING](#) Credits: 3
- [PCOU 5203 - INTEGRATION OF COUNSELING AND CHRISTIANITY](#) Credits: 3

- [PCOU 5233 - MARRIAGE COUNSELING THEORIES AND TECHNIQUES](#) Credits: 3

Professional Counseling Required Experiential Courses*

*Students must complete 1000 hours total of practicum and internship including 400 hours of direct client service

Students must take the required exit exam

- [PCOU 5103 - COUNSELING PRACTICUM](#) Credits: 3
 - [PCOU 5353 - INTERNSHIP I](#) Credits: 3
 - [PCOU 5363 - INTERNSHIP II](#) Credits: 3
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